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Inter-Arab Affairs

ACC Labor Ministers Hold Meetings in Baghdad

JN0508191189 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] labor ministers began in Baghdad this evening. At the beginning of the first working session, Umid Midhat Mubarak, [Iraqi] minister of labor and social affairs, delivered a speech welcoming the fraternal delegations participating in the first meeting of ACC labor ministers. He stressed the importance of the establishment of the ACC as a result of good, genuine Arab efforts, pointing out that this is an advanced step toward comprehensive Arab integration.

During the first working session, the labor ministers discussed four working papers, which were prepared by the the ACC delegations urging the ACC countries to cooperate and coordinate in exchanging expertise and information; to conduct studies; to hold training courses in the labor and social insurance areas; and to coordinate during Arab, regional, and international conferences. They also called for unified formulas for the social insurance laws and legislation and for the movement of manpower among the ACC countries.

Iraq's Ramadan Meets Ministers

JN0508155689 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 5, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier, today received here labor ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan said that forthcoming session of the ACC ministerial body in Baghdad on 22nd instant would tackle important social and economic affairs serving people of the four countries.

The ministers expressed readiness to put into implementation the agreements endorsed during the meetings in Baghdad and which tackled transfer of manpower, establishment of data bank and setting up committees on social security in addition to standardizing labor legislations.

Draft Agreement Signed

JN0608144589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—At the end of their meetings in Baghdad today, the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] labor ministers signed a draft agreement to organize employment and exchange manpower in the ACC's four countries.

The agreement was signed by Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs, for Iraq; 'Asim 'Abd-al-Haq, minister of manpower and training, for Egypt; Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of labor and social affairs, for the Yemen Arab Republic; and by Jamal al-Budur, minister of labor affairs, for Jordan.

The draft agreement stipulates that the ACC countries will exchange information, research, expertise, and technical and training scholarships in the areas of vocational training, labor education, and industrial security, and exchange visits to promote employment, vocational training, labor inspection, and social insurance.

The draft agreement calls for holding seminars and joint training courses in order to benefit from Arab expertise outside the homeland in the areas of training and preparing specialized research.

ACC Health Ministers Begin Meetings in Baghdad

JN0508191489 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpt] The meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council health ministers began in Baghdad today. The meetings will last 2 days. Health Minister 'Abd-al-Salam Muhammad Sa'id, Jordanian Health Minister Zuhayr Malhas, Egyptian Health Minister Raghib Duwaydar, and Yemen Arab Republic Health Minister Muhammad 'Ali Muqbil will participate in these meetings. [passage omitted]

Sign Minutes 6 Aug

JN0608153489 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 6, INA—Health ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] signed a joint minutes for health cooperation at the end of their meetings in Baghdad today.

The minutes provided for joint cooperation among the council member states Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Yemen Arab Republic in fields of marketing, purchasing and industry of drugs and medical supplies in a way ensuring their needs The minutes also granted right of receiving medical treatment services for nationals of the ACC member states at the government medical centers and hospitals in the four countries.

It also provided for exchange of medical health cadres, experts, technicians and specialists in addition to cooperating and coordinating efforts in holding scientific conferences. The minutes also provided for laying down unified regulations for drugs control labs and exchange of information and expertise in field of drug and publication of medical periodicals and bulletins.

ACC Transport Ministers Begin 2-Day Meeting
JN0608191289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] transport ministers began at the Ministry of Transport and Communications this evening. Muhammad Hamzah, [Iraqi] minister of transport and communications, delivered a speech at the beginning of the working session in which he said: The establishment of the ACC is considered a new turning point in the life of the contemporary Arab nation in promoting Arab cooperation and integration and in strengthening ties of solidarity among the four Arab countries. He added that Iraq's victory under the president leader, Saddam Husayn, in its war against aggression aimed at Iraq and the Arab nation has greatly contributed to crystallizing the march of building Arab unity through the establishment of the ACC on sound bases.

The agenda of the 2-day meetings includes spheres of cooperation in transport and communications areas among the ACC countries as well as proposals pertaining to the work of the transport and communications ministries in the ACC's four countries. Attending the meetings were Hikmat al-Khammash, Jordanian minister of transportation and communications; Sulayman Mutawalli, Egyptian minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; 'Abdallah al-Kurshumi, Yemen Arab Republic minister of public works and transportation; and the members of the delegations accompanying the ministers.

Ramadan Receives Ministers
JN0708144689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member, today received the ministers of transport and communications of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries.

The first deputy prime minister affirmed during the meeting the importance of the transport and communications sector, as it is the vital artery linking the ACC countries to each other. He called for exchange of expertise among the ACC's countries in this field.

The transport and communications ministers stressed the importance of continuing meetings to discuss ideas, proposals, and suggestions to increase cooperation among the council's countries in the field of transport and communications.

Islamic Affairs

Jordanian Premier Meets Islamic Council Members
JN0508121689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amman—Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir received at his office in the Prime Ministry this morning Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab and members of the World Islamic Council for the Call and Relief. Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, minister of state for cabinet affairs, was also present.

During the meeting, they reviewed the resolutions and results of the council's meetings in Amman in which the situation in Jerusalem, especially the al-Aqsa mosque, was discussed. They also discussed the situation of the Islamic holy shrines in the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli practices which aim to eradicate the Islamic sites there. The council also concentrated on how to support young Muslims and help them confront Israeli oppression in the 20-month-old glorious intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

The members of the council added that the current session discussed means of gathering together the Islamic nation's resources to build, develop, and cooperate in various fields, and to establish Islamic centers in Europe and the Far East to solve the problems of Muslims there and explain the Muslim point of view and position on various misunderstood issues. This will be done by organizing committees for spreading the call, teaching, financing, publishing, information, and relief, and for spreading sound Islamic ideas and present Islam's causes on the international level.

The prime minister expressed Jordan's pride over hosting the council's meetings on the eve of the blessed Islamic new year. He said that the Jordanian Government works hard to support the brothers in the occupied Arab territories and preserve the Islamic holy shrines. The prime minister thanked Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar al-Dhahab and members of the council for informing him of the results of their talks and wished the council success in its present and future activities, God willing. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Further Reportage on Fatah General Congress

Proceedings Detailed
JN0708152489 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 6 Aug 89 p 18

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Most of the members of Fatah's fifth general congress, currently in session in Tunis, are optimistic that it will produce good results in political and organizational terms. The deliberations of the night before last suggest that Fatah remains the true framework speaking for the aspirations of all Palestinians. Also noticeable is a trend to criticize the movement's organizational action, even going into specifics—a matter that has received the attention of the leadership, which did not seek to rein in such an approach, except on a few occasions.

Sakhr Abu-Nizar, secretary to the Revolutionary Council and a candidate for the Central Committee, made proposals on internal conditions and stressed his rejection of the recognition of Israel's right to exist, voicing his belief that recognizing Israel need not imply recognizing its right to existence.

Although key issues dominated Abu-Nizar's speech, he also touched on matters related to organizational reform, the Central Committee, the Revolutionary Council, and the machinery. He reviewed the preparations for the general congress, emphasizing that it be convened on schedule. He urged that specialized action committees be formed to improve performance and suggested a reversion to the system of giving a mandate to the Central Committee members to run things on various levels subject, to the commissioners having a general bureau.

A large number of the Central Committee members spoke during the session the night before last, the most outstanding speech being a discussion of the political situation in the Arab world and Europe by Khalid al-Hasan. With reference to Fatah's internal organization, Al-Hasan began by saying that given strong credentials in initiatives and pioneering the Palestinian struggle, the movement's leaders have nothing to fear from criticism. He ridiculed suggestions that criticism can be frustrating or divisive. He urged that each fulfill his role and step up his efforts on behalf of the objectives of the Palestinian march.

On the political front, Khalid al-Hasan said the Palestine National Council's resolutions in Algiers were timely inasmuch as the superpowers—the USSR and the United States—for once, agreed on the need to resolve regional conflicts, taking into account that the world is now heading toward a balance of interests rather than forces and that confrontation is giving way to cooperation.

Al-Hasan said that given the intifadah [uprising] unleashed by a generous people, we should know how to approach present world realities to advance the battle of Palestinian rights that began back in 1974 [year as published].

Khalid al-Hasan unequivocally said whoever historically concedes the rest of Palestine is a traitor "but the enemy is besieging us by statements that some of us make; it uses these statements to label Palestinian action as terrorism at a time when the most important characteristic on the international scene is credibility." He recalled Churchill's pronouncement that there are no lasting friendships but only lasting interests.

Al-Hasan focused on the bases of Western policy and called for adherence to the historical dimension of the Palestinian revolution. He said it is not possible to resolve the conflict between the Zionist movement and the Palestinian national movement. He explained that the Zionist movement, in its essence, represents the sharp contradiction of all that we represent "but as the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said, perform your business discreetly."

Khalid al-Hasan talked about the difference between tactics and maneuvers, saying the former embodies reason itself while the latter is an adventure—depending on the enemy's monitoring what we say.

He stressed that timing in politics is important, and so is patience. He said that as a result of the intifadah, the enemy panicked and the Zionist community tried to escape into extremism. He rejected some views that Fatah should reply to extremism with extremism. "Moderation in the position of extremism is a mistake, and extremism in the position of moderation is a sin," he said. He emphasized the soundness of the Algiers resolutions and said the evidence of this is the popular reaction to those resolutions. But he demanded that Fatah regain its vitality in organization, vigilance, and initiatives opening the way for action.

Central Committee member Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid—Abu-al-Hawl—reviewed some political positions and defended the decisions and trends of the leadership. But in the last part of his remarks concerning organization and the internal situation, he said that a number of steps should be taken: "Do not leave this congress with the movement's bylaws incomplete and without agreement on specific steps to rectify the internal situation," he said.

After Abu-al-Hawl, Central Committee member Muhammad Ghunaym—Abu-Mahir—usually described as the member with the hardest line regarding political subjects, spoke. However, he did not offer any criticism of the sort that Yasir 'Arafat used to meet with sharp interruptions.

Abu-Mahir stressed the need for results and for political programs to be in line with principles, extending bridges to world public opinion. He called for radical change in the structure of the movement.

Central Committee member Salim al-Za'nun—Abu-al-Adib—called for adopting the principle of reward and punishment and the creation of an independent judicial body. He also called for creating stronger ties with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the occupied territories and stressed the need for stopping those statements that are taken as "evidence" against the PLO.

Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan surprised all by presenting a group of proposals, some of which were not expected. He spoke about what he termed centers of power within the Central Committee and called for the need to achieve unity and clarity of action "to lay down strong and sound bases for our march." He called for defining [tahdid] powers, particularly those of 'Arafat, and said, "Let us define the powers of the general commander. Let them be large, because large powers are less than undefined ones."

Al-Hasan also called for enabling the Revolutionary Council to play its role so that a Revolutionary Council member will not be a mere number. He stressed that principles and aims are sacred and such aims cannot be attained unless a sound policy conducive to the attainment of these aims is drawn up. Most important in a sound policy, he said, is a clear political line and adherence to constants, as well as the need to establish an independent, sovereign state whose capital is Jerusalem, while recognizing the right to repatriation, which guarantees linkage between what is phased and what is strategic.

Concluding his remarks, Hani al-Hasan indicated that the PLO is the Palestinian people's political legality while the Fatah Movement is their revolutionary legality and "revolutionary legality should always be in the forefront of our feelings and throughout our march."

The speech of Central Committee member Rafiq al-Natshah touched more closely on some detailed issues that serve as examples of what he termed mistakes, criticizing the political advisers' statements which turned into a policy without the knowledge of the Fatah leadership. He added that commitment to the political decision and not the decision itself is the problem, indicating that he will not repeat before the conference his and his colleagues' discussion on the domestic situation. He strongly criticized Hamas' attempt to monopolize the slogan "Allahu akbar". He said this slogan is not the property of anyone, warning against undertaking another political action or implementing political programs behind the scenes.

Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, spoke briefly, saying that some of the topics raised should have been discussed in the Central Committee, because the congress is not the leadership, thus implicitly criticizing Al-Natshah.

Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, began his remarks by explaining some aspects of the bylaws, indicating that he was unable to comprehend the expansion of the movement. He called for changing the regulations defining the number of members of the congress because if such regulations are implemented, he said, the preparatory committee will be forced to invite several thousand strugglers to whom the membership conditions apply.

Abu-Mazin then moved on to discuss contacts with the Israeli party powers. He clarified that this topic cannot remain a riddle. He reviewed the beginnings of the stages of contact with the Jews while adhering to the Palestine National Council's [PNC] resolutions, which have allowed contacts with democratic powers opposed to the practices and ideologies of Zionism to open the way to contacts with powers believing in the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Then, Mahmud 'Abbas began discussing some examples of contacts and clarified that the PLO always sets its conditions before approving of any meeting. When the discussion turned to some issues dealing with the military and organizational steps taken by the PLO so that some contacts will realize their goals, Khalid al-Hasan objected and demanded that talk of details touching on the PLO's security plan be stopped. In another remark, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] affirmed that Mahmud 'Abbas is not the only one responsible for contacts with powers supporting the Palestinian people's national rights, but the whole leadership.

Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the fifth Fatah congress, read some cables addressed to the congress. The cables, which were sent by unions, associations, and organizations from inside [the occupied territories], stirred excitement among the conferees. When a cable in the name of 1948 occupied Palestine's young men and women was read, the hall echoed with applause. The cable stressed that Palestine's people under occupation since 1948 will remain rooted in their homeland just like the roots of the olive tree, until the time for the great freedom comes. The Galilee, Triangle, Nazareth, 'Akko, and Negev cables created an atmosphere—clearly felt by the participants—of the unity of the Palestinian people and the eternal unity of their holy land.

But what about the elections of the Central Committee? Yesterday, the door was opened for nominations for 18 members of the Central Committee, 3 of whom will be excluded by the congress. They are: Yasir 'Arafat who will be appointed secretary general, and Faruq Qaddumi and Salah Khalaf, both of whom will be appointed assistant secretaries.

It seems that there is a tendency in the congress to reelect all former Central Committee members with one exception. Their names will be put to the vote at the beginning. Among those who have officially been nominated for membership are the 10 present members in addition to Sakhr Abu-Nizar, Al-Haj Mutlaq, 'Abbas Zaki, Colonel Nasr Yusuf, Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], Abu-al-'Abd al-'Akluk, Ahmad Quray', Hakam Bal'awi, 'Izzat Abu-al-Rubb, Nabil 'Amr, Mundhir al-Dajani, Muhammad Jaradat, Muhammad al-A'raj, 'Abdallah al-Ifranji, Subhi Abu-Karsh, Muhammad Jihad, and Muhammad 'Afanah.

The congress' subcommittees are continuing their activities. Prominant elements in the movement affirmed that the current trend in the political committee is to insist on fixing the PNC's Algiers resolutions. This trend started naturally where none of the speakers objected, either overtly or covertly, to these resolutions. There was a quasi-unanimity over this point, even if some disagreed over the methods of implementation.

Final Session Postponed

JN0708184889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1717 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The deliberations of the fifth Fatah congress are proceeding at a slow pace. This, according to Palestinian sources, led to the postponement of the final session for at least 24 hours after it had been scheduled to be concluded tonight.

AFP said in a cable from Tunis that deliberations on the bylaws and the military report are being held in a tense atmosphere. The election of the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council members has also been postponed.

Regarding the military report, it has been learned from a source close to the congress that Fatah's hardline wing has managed to convince the moderate wing to expand military operations against Israel to include areas outside the occupied territories. This point, about which there were no details, has reportedly been included in a draft resolution that will be submitted to the conferees for voting. The resolution also calls for rejecting the Israeli plan to hold elections in the occupied territories, although it supports the Palestinian peace initiative that was approved by the Palestine National Council in November last year.

It will be recalled that following lengthy discussions that continued until dawn today, the conferees adopted the political committee's report, which supports the open-door and peace policy being pursued by Yasir 'Arafat and consequently supports the continuation of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

One should wait for the final statement to know the details of the topics discussed. However, 40 candidates are competing for the Central Committee's 15 seats. The Central Committee's members, whose tenure has expired and who have individually submitted their candidacy for another term, are the following: Faruq Qaddumi, Salah Khalaf, Mahmud 'Abbas, Hani al-Hasan, Khalid al-Hasan, Rafiq al-Natshah, Muhammad Ghunaym, Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid, and Salim al-Za'nun.

Congress Resumes 7 Aug

JN0708202689 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1824 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Under the chairmanship of the president leader, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the fifth Fatah general congress continued its meetings this morning for the 5th day running. A general session was held to discuss the reports of the committees formed by the congress—the political, organizational, military, social, security, and intifadah [uprising] committees. All these committees ended their work and formulated their programs, statements, and recommendations to the general congress.

The congress concluded discussions on the intifadah committee's statement, which was the first one presented to the congress. The statement was referred to a wording committee to complete and enrich it in light of the ideas and proposals expressed by speakers. The general congress also listened to the report of the financial and social committee. Elections for the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council are due today.

Our radio correspondent has noticed that the congress' deliberations are proceeding in a distinguished way and that reconciliation and accord on the various issues are highly remarkable, although this does not mean lack of pluralism of opinions and trends. But the common ground regulating this pluralism is outstandingly present.

The correspondent has also noticed that a large number of members are running for the Central Committee and Revolutionary Council elections—a sign that the Fatah Movement, which has fully recovered from the imposed breakaways, has overcome the comprehensive plots of liquidation launched against it by Israel and the United States. The Syrian regime implemented the most dangerous link in these plots after the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese national movement in Lebanon recorded the steadfastness epic. But other links aimed at destroying the superstructure of the Fatah Movement and the PLO have appeared on the horizon. This became evident through the public statements by the terrorist Sharon against Palestinian leaders, especially the brother president leader, Abu-'Ammar. These statements reflect Israeli agreement, if not a high-level decision.

The large number of those running in the elections also reflects high enthusiasm to activate the bodies and expand the circle of action to face the forthcoming stage.

Upon a proposal made by the brother president leader, Abu-'Ammar, the fifth Fatah general congress unanimously agreed that each Fatah member donate his wedding ring, a piece of gold, or $100 in a campaign aimed at building up a gold cover for the forthcoming national currrency.

Congress To End 8 Aug

LD0808060889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] The fifth general congress of the Fatah Movement will today end its work, not yesterday as expected. The reason for this is to enable the congress to complete its discussions and prepare decisions regarding the various issues on the agenda.

Yesterday the congress adopted with a majority the positions of Yasir 'Arafat and thus rejected the plan of the Israeli Prime Minister Shamir which calls for holding elections in the occupied territories.

Yesterday afternoon the congress completed the discussion of the draft decision of the political committee which calls for the endorsement of the peace initiative which was taken by the Palestine National Council in Algiers on the basis of self-determination and the return of Palestine and the establishment of an independent state, with its capital Jerusalem, under the leadership of the PLO—its sole legitimate representative. According to sources close to the congress, the Fatah general congress has categorically rejected the Shamir plan, but agreed to the principle of holding elections in the occupied territories after the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces from those territories—an attitude which Yasir 'Arafat had reaffirmed on many occasions in rejecting the holding of elections under the occupation and agreeing to hold them after the Israeli withdrawal and under UN auspices or in the presence of UN observers.

Sources close to the congress also said that at the request of the hardline wing of Fatah, it was agreed to continue the armed struggle and reject any agreement or political negotiations with the Israeli enemy by calling for the escalation of military action outside the areas of the uprising.

Yesterday afternoon discussion continued on the internal statutes of Fatah. The evening session was expected to complete the discussion of the draft resolutions.

The final session is expected to be held today to elect the Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council of the movement. So far 47 members have been nominated for the Central Committee and 272 members have been nominated for the Revolutionary Council. It is recalled that the Central Committee consists of 15 members, while the Revolutionary Council is composed of 96 members.

'Sources' on Political Program

NC0608125889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—It was learned here today that it has been agreed to retain the Central Committee as the highest body of the Fatah Movement and that 23 members are competing for membership on the committee, which will be limited to 13 [number as received] members in addition to its chairman, Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestinian sources in Cairo have pointed out that with this agreement, the Fatah congress under way in Tunisia has abandoned the idea of forming two higher commands for the Fatah Movement, one being the higher secretariat and the other the Central Committee. Agreement was reached to retain the Central Committee as the highest authority in Fatah. It had been proposed that the higher secretariat be composed of the six members of the Central Committee who received the most votes. 'Arafat was nominated as chairman for this secretariat but he refused the offer, preferring to remain in his position as commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution. [passage omitted]

The same sources confirmed that that the fifth Fatah congress, which is being attended by 1,050 members and which will end on 9 August, has approved the movement's political program which defines the principles for the coming stage, the first and most important of which is the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, the right to self-determination, and the right of return. Regarding the means of achieving these objectives, the sources said that agreement was reached on reviving all forms of political and military struggle, escalating the armed struggle, continuing and intensifying the intifadah [uprising], working to set up an active Arab front, and action to hold an international conference with full authority. These principles and objectives emerged after a wide-ranging democratic debate during the congress sessions and the meetings of committees, particularly the intifadah and military affairs committees. [passage omitted]

Further on Committees' Work

LD0708002489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The political, organizational, military, security, and social committees, as well as the intifadah [uprising] committee formed at the fifth general congress of the Fatah Movement have concluded their work and have drafted their programs, statements, and resolutions, which will be submitted to the final session of the congress in Tunis, which is expected to be held on Monday [7 August].

The PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY has reported that the congress has finished the discussion of the intifadah statement—which was the first statement referred to the congress—and it has now been referred to a drafting committee in order to complete the proposals which will be included in the final communique. The agency expects the election of members of the Fatah Central Committee and Revolutionary Council to be completed on Monday, bearing in mind that a large number of conferees have submitted their candidacy for those two organs.

U.S. Proposal for Occupied Territories Discussed

PM0708153689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Aug 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "New U.S. Proposal for Election in the Occupied Territory"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Palestinian sources in Cairo have confirmed that the United States has given assurances to the PLO and some other Arab parties that the final solution to the Palestinian problem will be based on the land for peace formula and UN Security Council Resolution 242.

The sources said that the Bush administration intends to promote a two-phase settlement beginning with elections in the occupied territory and a change in political conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip prior to negotiations on a final settlement involving all parties concerned.

The sources added that a number of U.S. ambassadors in the Middle East and State Department experts maintain that the U.S. Administration must hold consultations with Syria and put it in the picture regarding current contacts on the situation in the occupied territory. That suggestion is now under consideration.

According to the same sources, the PLO has informed the U.S. Administration that it categorically refuses to hold any talks or discussions on the proposed U.S. plan if the aim is to give the Palestinians limited autonomy, as Israel wants.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration is at present endeavoring to promote a proposal for the withdrawal of Israeli military forces from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, the reopening of the remaining schools and institutes, and the release of some Palestinian detainees.

Abu-Musa Says Libya Suspended Assistance

JN0708062889 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] In Damascus, Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], leader of Fatah—the Provisional Command, has stated that the fifth Fatah congress cannot but approve the capitulatory decisions.

On the other hand, Abu-Musa admitted that his movement is experiencing financial difficulties following Libya's suspension 1 year ago of the financial assistance it used to provide to his movement.

Egypt

Mubarak on Cooperation With Lebanon Committee

NC0708144889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1248 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Alexandria, 7 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has said that the Arab Tripartite Committee in charge of solving the Lebanese problem has exerted strenuous efforts and faced numerous difficulties. However, he added, the committee still has 3 months to complete its task.

Mubarak made this statement to journalists shortly before he and Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id of Oman left al-Nuzhah Airport for Cairo this afternoon.

President Mubarak urged all parties concerned with the Lebanese crisis and who intend to resolve the problem to respond to the tripartite committee's efforts. Thus, he said: We can make Lebanon a sovereign and friendly state again instead of the current state of division in that country.

Ghali Calls For Cease-Fire

NC0708131189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 7 Aug (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said today that Egypt is following with concern the recent developments in the Lebanese arena and that it condemns the current escalation of situation by the rival parties in Lebanon and calls for the need to establish a cease-fire. He also said that Egypt appeals to the tripartite committee to continue its efforts to solve the Lebanese problem.

He asserted the need to mobilize the international community's concern for the Lebanese problem as a basic issue, adding that the interest in the hostage issue must not be at the expense of the fundamental issue, the solution of which will help resolve all other issues, including the hostage issue.

Dr Ghali made this statement after his meeting with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh, Lebanese ambassador in Cairo, who briefed Ghali on the escalating political and security situation in Lebanon.

Editorial on Committee's Failure

JN0608185589 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Aug 89 p 7

[Editorial: "The Ordeal of Failure"]

[Text] Everyone was surprised by the decision of the tripartite Arab ministerial committee on the failure of its mission in Lebanon. There is still much time for the committee to continue its efforts, because it was given 6 months from last May in accordance with the Arab League's resolutions to set up a higher committee made up of the kings and heads of state of Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria to deal with the Lebanese issue. The ministerial committee stemmed from this higher committee.

It seems that following their tours of the capitals and their exhaustive consultations with the Arab leaders, the three ministers and Lakhdar Ibrahim, the Arab League's mediator in the crisis, have concluded that it was better to announce their failure to give the higher committee a chance to take suitable measures before the deadline expires, because the higher committee will meet at the end of this time limit to prepare a report on its efforts to the Arab League.

Reports on the ministerial committee's position say that it attributes its failure to several factors, which can be described as very serious and able to destroy the strongest efforts. These factors include the current hostility between Syria and Iraq, Israel's occupation of part of southern Lebanon, and the Lebanese people's inability to agree on how to reform the sectarian political system. These factors are the essence of the Lebanese crisis, no more, no less.

It was obvious even at the meetings of the Arab reconciliation summit, which were held in Casablanca and which witnessed the return of Egypt, that the most difficult problem was the achievement of a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq, despite efforts to bring them closer together, and that Lebanon has been and will continue to be an arena of conflict between the two countries.

Regarding Israel's occupation of part of southern Lebanon, we can say that its impact on the issue is well known. It represents the sword of partition not only through its entity, but also through Israel's schemes and attempts with the Lebanese themselves. Israel assists the covetous renegades and advocates of sectarianism, fragments the Arab forces, and deals with the arms and war merchants. The Lebanese people's inability to achieve political reform is the result of these schemes: the armed power struggle among the internal forces; the Syrian and Israeli invasions; the multiplicity of allegiances; the assassinations, bombings, and abductions; and the complete absence of security. These facts should encourage the Lebanese people to contemplate and end to the current chaos through a determination to remedy the situation.

Iran Urged To Work for Peace Accord With Iraq

NC0708193589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has issued a statement on the first anniversary of Iran's acceptance of a cease-fire. He said Egypt hopes that Iran will prove its good intentions and move quickly toward a peaceful settlement and serious negotiations to sign a peace accord. This, he added, is the only way to achieve peace, security, and justice in that region. He pointed out that only a speedy settlement of the Iraqi-Iranian dispute will allow the two countries' peoples to live in peace and to direct their human and economic resources toward reconstruction and development.

Abu-Talib Addresses Reporters in Washington

NC0708095089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2137 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Washington, 6 Aug (MENA)—Defense Minister General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib has emphasized the need to remove tension in the Middle East once and for all, saying that this tension is the main danger to development in the region. He explained that for this reason President Husni Mubarak is doing his utmost to find drastic solutions to the multiple problems in the region. This is because only by solving these problems will it be possible to eliminate the existing tension.

In remarks to Egyptian correspondents in Washington, Abu-Talib said: For this reason we do not speak about the existence of certain "threats," but we say that the existing tension is the greatest danger to the region.

In this connection, General Abu-Talib stressed that the "stereotypical meaning" of threats has ended or will end in the near future. Struggle in the form of a political or military confrontation will remain. He said that after the October 1973 war and the Gulf war a conviction has arisen that this kind of war is costly. Therefore, creating tension will be the alternative. He added that for this reason we must strive to remove the tension endangering the whole region's stability.

Gen Abu-Talib called for rallying efforts to solve the Palestinian problem, given that it is one of the main hotbeds of tension. This can be done by encouraging the parties to sit together and work out a drastic solution to the problem. He also called for confronting the Lebanese problem by using the same method so that the elements of this problem will be carefully discussed and settled. The same method can be applied to all regions under tension, including southern Sudan, Chad, and the Sahara, because we cannot achieve real stability before removing all the causes of tension.

Speaking about his current visit to the United States, his first since he became defense minister, Gen Abu-Talib said the visit confirms the good relations and friendship between Egypt and the United States. He added that the visit underlines the strong relations between the two countries and their joint interests in the region.

Abu-Talib further explained the importance of the visit in that it represents the continuation of Egyptian-U.S. relations in the military production field, including manufacturing the advanced M-1 tank in Egypt. The M-1 tank is considered the world's best and most modern tank.

Abu-Talib said that he has come to the United States, "carrying the greetings of the Egyptian people to a friendly people whom we appreciate for the aid they give to Egypt. We also appreciate the military aid the American people give which is used to modernize the Egyptian Armed Forces. This aid eases a huge economic burden for the Egyptian economy."

Abu-Talib said that U.S.-Egyptian relations are a "strategic line." Responding to a question, he added, therefore, nothing can mar these relations, particularly regarding domestic issues in both countries. He was alluding to a certain case still being considered by a U.S. federal court in which a person was accused of attempting to transport military material to Egypt.

Abu-Talib stressed that when he meets with Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, he will renew his invitation to visit Egypt, provided that its final date be set through contacts between the two countries. He emphasized that the "Bright Star" maneuvers that are conducted in Egypt with participation by Egyptian and U.S. military units will take place on schedule in November.

Asked about Egyptian manufacture of certain spare parts for the F-16 combat aircraft, Abu-Talib stressed that joint manufacture will be one of the topics of discussion during his current visit to the United States. He pointed out that the contract for manufacturing certain F-16 aircraft spare parts is considered to be one of the good signs of bilateral cooperation in the field of joint manufacture.

Abu-Talib asserted that the line pursued by the Egyptian Armed Forces is "to build themselves in such a way as to be able to defend the homeland and to retaliate." He said that it is no secret that the Armed Forces have for some time worked to replace quantity with quality, assimilate the most modern technology, and depend on local and joint manufacture for military production in such a way as to alleviate burdens on the Egyptian economy. Anyway, the Egyptian Armed Forces' goal is to maintain peace and achieve regional stability.

Responding to a question on the situation on the western front following the improvement in relations with Libya, Gen Abu-Talib emphasized Egypt's eagerness to achieve good relations with all its neighbors. He noted that Egypt's return to the Arab League at the Casablanca Arab Summit demonstrates good intentions, which Egypt welcomes. He noted that President Mubarak's declared policy is to have good relations with all parties. This is manifest in Egypt's Arab and African relations in particular.

In response to a question on Sudanese-Libyan relations and General 'Umar al-Bashir's latest visit to Libya, Gen Abu-Talib stressed that Egypt does not deny anyone the right to improve ties with neighbors. He said that pursuing this course would lead to stability and improvement in the situation in the area in general, which will have positive effects on the efforts to propel the wheel of development. He said: We are interested in Sudan's moving along with the new spirit and succeeding in resolving all the problems afflicting it.

MENA on Modification of Armored Vehicles

NC0408111089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian military industry has succeeded in developing the M-106 and M-113-A1 Western armored vehicles. This forms part of the Armed Forces' plan to develop and modernize their armored forces to keep pace with the latest world technology, to meet the battle requirements of the modern joint forces, and to prolong the life of military equipment.

The MENA military editor has learned that the development of the two vehicles was carried out by Egyptian experts and technicians at the Qadir factory for advanced industries, an affiliate of the Arab Industrialization Organization. The modifications will increase the possibility of using more weapons in the vehicle and will ensure optimum hit accuracy, increased mobility, and a higher degree of maneuverability. They will also allow better use of the navigational aids and night vision equipment of the vehicle and will provide a high degree of protection for the crew.

It is noteworthy that in the past Egypt succeeded in modifying the Warsaw Pact T-54 and T-55 tanks by installing 105- and 115-mm guns in them, increasing their engine capacity, and installing Egyptian-made laser range-finding and radio equipment. These modification have increased the tanks' capabilities and placed them among the world's most advanced tanks.

NDP Secretary General Yusuf Wali Interviewed

PM0208101289 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Jul 89 pp 32-33

[Unattributed interview with National Democratic Party Secretary General Dr Yusuf Wali; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] Although some time has elapsed since the shura elections, it can be said that there are certain indications which need explanation, including the meaning of the National Democratic Party's [NDP] overwhelming victory despite the low turnout of both voters and candidates—this is in addition to the fact that the party, despite its legislative importance, did not achieve the same ratio in the People's Assembly, since the opposition won over 100 seats.

[Wali] The natural meaning of the results of the recent shura elections is the masses' backing for positive stances and for those working for their interests objectively and impartially—that is, divorced from exhibitionist stances, however loud. The results said "no" to passivity and to attempts to distort the facts. The NDP cannot be held responsible for the abstainers' failure to participate in the election campaigns for reasons that concern them alone, though, as you mentioned, the opposition did secure a considerable number of seats in the last People's Assembly elections.

[AL-HAWADITH] But the question that remains is this: Do you not believe that that victory to some extent proves what the opposition says about election rigging, preventing its candidates from performing the duty of sponsorship, and the need to provide sufficient guarantees for future elections?

[Wali] The election results cannot be separated from the party's moves and activities before they were held. Despite the burdens on us, the people are aware of the great efforts exerted at the national level in all aspects of life. Thanks to their sharp awareness, they also know that the only way to build our future is by continuing these efforts. As for the talk about rigging, which tends to precede any election, regardless of the results, and which betrays its motives, it is no longer acceptable. Besides, the presence of the judicial authorities at the head of the body supervising the elections and the extensive freedom of expression which Egypt now enjoys—all this provides guarantees for the organization of the election process. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you not believe that the existence of three electoral systems—namely, the individual system for the shura, proportional lists for the People's Assembly, and absolute lists for local councils—conflicts with the democratic approach in Egypt? How do you believe such contradictions can be resolved?

[Wali] I do not believe that the combination of electoral systems conflicts with, or constitutes a shortcoming in, Egypt's democratic approach. Besides, it is not only Egypt that uses a combination of electoral systems. This does not mean an end to current assessments of such systems within the framework of exploring the various political orientations to discover the best systems; their suitability for our own political, social, and cultural conditions; and their advantages, in order to determine the best system in that regard with a view to expanding the people's participation in political and party work. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Is there any intention of dissolving the People's Assembly this year, especially in view of the crisis of the 78 deputies, the Supreme Administrative Court's ruling, and the appeal to the Supreme Constitutional Court against recent changes in the People's Assembly and its law?

[Wali] The rule of the law was stressed as a fundamental and real factor, and the judiciary's rulings are the subject of everyone's respect. But the appeal against them or recourse to another judicial authority are guaranteed to everyone by law within the framework of equality for the sons of the one homeland. But the Supreme Administrative Court's ruling or the appeals submitted are a separate issue and have nothing to do with the dissolution of the People's Assembly.

[AL-HAWADITH] The talk about differences within the NDP, between the party and the government, or between the party and the People's Assembly is virtually a permanent topic for the opposition. What is the truth in that regard, and how can the three bodies—the party, the government, and the People's Assembly—coordinate?

[Wali] The opposition papers' talk about differences within the NDP or between its government and its parliamentary committee is probably in the form of ill wishes which will never materialize, God willing, because relations between the government, the party, and its parliamentary committee are solid. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you not believe that the Agriculture Ministry is one of the bodies that has intensive dealings with Israel at the level of experts and others, and that this could have a negative impact on relations with the Arab community?

[Wali] Agriculture and science are an international language, and we have agricultural links with most of the world's states, of both East and West, with a view to exchanging knowledge and absorbing the latest technologies. And our relations with any of the world's states within that context cannot have a negative affect on our Arab relations. Our genuine affiliation will always be to our Arab nation, its interests, and its orientations. [passage omitted]

Ummah Party Chief Al-Sabahi Interviewed

PM0708144489 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 2-8 Aug 89 p 11

[Interview with Ummah Party leader Ahmad al-Sabahi by Ashraf al-'Ashri in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-'Ashri] How do you explain the recent coup within the Ummah Party and your removal from the party leadership?

[Al-Sabahi] What happened within the Ummah Party was not, as some have suggested, a coup such as those experienced by certain parties and unions in Egypt. It was a minor secessionist move by some of the members sacked 2 months ago for their violation of party rules. The reason for the split was that the party's Executive Committee decided to dismiss 30 members for their violation of party regulations. And 2 months later these members, with the support of certain elements, wanted to seize the party on the pretext that their dismissal was unconstitutional and violated party regulations. As for the story of my removal from the party leadership, they convened an imaginary general assembly and decided to remove me and appoint the dissidents' leader, Diyab Abu-Libdah, as leader of the party, which is unconstitutional, and the judiciary will determine the case.

[Al-'Ashri] It is said that the Ummah Party belongs to the Al-Sabahi family, as shown by the fact that its leader allowed his relatives to join the party but rejected other new members.

[Al-Sabahi] That is absolutely untrue. The Ummah Party has never been an Al-Sabahi family party: Its membership includes all kinds of Egyptians. Party membership lists confirm this. The Executive Committee, the Central Committee, and the Politburo include more than 100 leading members, only one of them from Al-Sabahi family, namely, my son Mahmud, who is one of the founders. The party has never been a party for my family. The proof of this is that we allowed the dissidents and their followers to join the party and enjoy membership for several years. But later they turned against us. Membership is open to everyone, not to particular individuals to the exclusion of others.

[Al-'Ashri] What truth is there in the reports of financial irregularities within the party? And is it true that its leader appropriated its funds?

[Al-Sabahi] There are no financial irregularities within the party, and not a single violation has been committed in that area. These rumors are spread by dissidents with help from certain Egyptian newspapers that have persisted in publishing statements for them against me and my family. In their statements they alleged that I appropriated the party's funds and spent them on my family. My reply to them is that the arbitrator between us is the central auditing agency, the body responsible for financial and administrative matters within the party. If any violations are found, let them record them and bring me to trial. All papers and documents confirm the soundness of the financial situation over the past 6 years.

[Al-'Ashri] Dissidents say that you violated the party's policies to achieve certain objectives, primarily appointment in ministerial posts. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Sabahi] These allegations and lies are spread by the dissidents and some of those dissatisfied with Ahmad al-Sabahi's being a party leader in Egypt. They are appointing themselves leaders of imaginary and nonexistent parties. Following my evident success in leading the party for 6 years, they started to launch their rumors against me.

[Al-'Ashri] What truth is there in the reports that you were offered a million pounds to leave the party for another party?

[Al-Sabahi] I will say a word of truth for history in Egypt: No money has been offered to me to leave the party or to allow someone else to lead it.

[Al-'Ashri] Is it true that the Ummah Party emerged from the ruling National [Democratic] Party [NDP] fold, as shown ny your withdrawal from the opposition group and your support for its [NDP] policies?

[Al-Sabahi] Such talk is promoted by those who failed to form legitimate parties. The Ummah Party became known and legitimate under a judicial ruling issued in July 1983 in accordance with a decision taken by the Supreme Constitutional Court at a time when the political leadership of the time was rejecting the establishment of new parties. We stood fast for many years until the judiciary issued a just ruling. Then our party became legal. All politicians in Egypt are fully aware of how the Ummah Party was founded. It is not true that we emerged from the NDP fold. The proof of this is that I confronted that party and opposed its policies for 5 years within the opposition group. But I left that group when I differed with its leaders. I told them: "You are paper parties and you have lost the people's confidence." Since then I have refused to work with them, especially after they turned the opposition into nothing but talking and shouting. So they started to launch their rumors against me, saying that I receive money and bribes from the NDP. And I tell them that the Ummah Party receives aid worth 10,000 pounds a year, whereas your parties receives 20,000 pounds a month.

[Al-'Ashri] Is it true that the Ummah Party has no presence at all on the political scene, and that it is a party with neither mass support nor policies?

[Al-Sabahi] I admit that there are some shortcomings in the Ummah Party, but we are not the cause. The cause are the conditions experienced by the party: On the one hand the authorities are besieging us, and on the other hand opposition parties are attacking and pillorying us daily. But in view of recent conditions, I think that the situation will change and you should expect some surprises.

Article Assesses Call for Party Dialogue

JN0508202589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 3 Aug 89 pp 1, 4

[Article by Fu'ad Siraj-al-Din: "Why Do You Not Give Democracy a Chance for Once?"]

[Text] I do not know what motives made the ruling National Democratic Party [NDP] repeat the tune of a national dialogue with the opposition parties. Is is true that this party needs the opposition's experience and its advice on national problems, which have reached a dead end? All indications confirm that the ruling NDP believes it does not need the opinion of the other party and does not need to hold a dialogue with the other party, as one of its leaders once stated to the press. The NDP masters the art of dialogue with itself only because it controls everything in this country and holds all the political, economic, security, and legislative strings in its hands—the government, its members from the NDP, the People's Assembly, its chairmanship, and its committees. All these receive their orders from the party. The Consultative Council is one of the party's committees. The same applies to local government in terms of governors, mayors, and heads of rural councils. If the ruling party has this control and power, what, then, makes it call for dialogue with the opposition parties?

In my opinion, the democratic wave that is engulfing the world from east to the west is behind the NDP reopening its old files to take out the file on democratic dialogue with the opposition, hoping to find in democracy a cover for the present state of affairs characterized by the party controlling by itself all Egypt's affairs at a time when people throughout the world have risen calling for democracy and freedom and at a time too that authoritarian regimes are collapsing.

When the NDP reopens the old file of dialogue, it will find that the opposition has never tarried in responding to such a call in the past when it believed that something useful will come out from such a dialogue. The opposition responded to the call of the president of the republic for collective participation in settling the issue of subsidies. Although the Al-Wafd Party did not receive from the government any assistance in collecting the data it had asked for, the specialized committees in Al-Wafd, which comprise the best experts, spent long nights to complete their task and prepared a comprehensive report on this issue and how to settle it. This report was referred to the president of the republic, the prime minister, the ministers, and to all those concerned.

What was the result?

The ministers did not even read the report. They did not bother to look at it and to benefit from it. They shelved the report, as is the case with every serious study that seeks to save Egypt from its tribulation.

What was our reward?

We were slandered, criticized, and attacked in the government's papers and by their columnists. We were accused of being negativists, of gloating during economic crises, and of not participating in formulating solutions.

NDP Secretary General Yusuf Wali once again called for dialogue with the opposition parties on Egypt's problems. The opposition parties agreed to this. In the first meeting, the leaders of the parties, to pave the way for any dialogue, asked the government to issue a statement that it will not reconduct the emergency law. The NDP secretary general said that he must go back to his party and to the government to see what they have to say to this. The meeting was then postponed to another date. However, 2 days before the date of this meeting, the government submitted a draft law to the People's Assembly for the reconduction of the emergency for another 3 years (instead of 1 or 2), although the emergency law had still 2 months to go before it expired.

With this behavior, which came as a surprise to the opposition parties leaders, the second meeting did not take place. The idea of a dialogue was thus nipped in the bud after that the government had aborted it with its provocative behavior.

If we turn a new page, and look at the present call for a dialogue on the question of unemployment, the least that can be said about it is that it is an invitation for dialogue by one party. The ruling party is the one planning for the game. It is setting the venue and the date, as well as the names of the players and the referees. The only thing left for it to do is to announce the results in advance. The ruling party's sources have announced that the question of unemployment will be at the top of the list of the priorities to be discussed during this dialogue and that the NDP prepared a working paper on this issue at its recent fifth congress. This means that the NDP has chosen the topic and decided on its priority without consulting any of the other parties to the dialogue. We believe that the issue of unemployment is the upshot of a long series of ugly mistakes committed by successive governments over the past 30 years. The governments we mean are those that placed slogans above realities and whose only objective was to please the ruler before anything else. This has led to confusion and to this imbalance. The issue of unemployment has come to expose the seriousness of the ailment and the gravity of the perils threatening the safety of society. Therefore, the unemployment problem is the result and not the cause. The best way to treat this problem is to focus attention to the cause and not to the symptoms. Al-Wafd had more than once stated its opinion on how to treat this issue. We do not mind reiterating our stand on this for the umpteenth time: Political reform must precede any attempt to remedy the ailments from which the people suffer. Politics define the economic course, and not the opposite. We will not tire of drawing the attention of officials to this fact before it is too late. Any social or economic reform will not produce results unless it is preceded by a radical political reform that will liberate the people from all restrictions and let them freely choose their leaders and the party they believe is capable of attaining their aspirations of prosperity, freedom, justice, and security.

Is this too much to ask?

Why do you not for once give democracy a chance before the momentous events make you repent at a time that repentance is of no use?

Islamic 'Group of 90' Leader Interviewed

JN2907150289 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 26 Jul 89 p 12

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Fattah Ahmad Muhammad, alias Al-Azraq, leader of the Group of 90, in Sawhaj by Hasan 'Abd-al-Basit; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Basit] Can I ask how do you finance your activities?

[Muhammad] Our revenues come from donations and activities like exhibitions and so forth, as well as the money we collect from zakat. The group publicly announces that it will collect donations from people. There are no secret activities, and we do not care if the security organs know about them because we believe that these are good things.

['Abd-al-Basit] Does the group have relations with Islamic states or groups outside Egypt?

[Muhammad] We are not a state to have separate foreign relations, and there is no need to level accusation of being agents because we are Muslims and Egyptians. We have no relations in the conspiratorial meaning, which is repeated by the regime's writers to distort our image. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Basit] It has been noticed that most of the group's activities only come within the framework of opposition to the existing regime by making use of its shortcomings. Do you have anything to offer society through an integrated program that aims to change society for the better?

[Muhammad] We relieve Muslims of their burdens and make them believe that we are part of their lives. We feel pain for their pains. It is known that the Islamic group led the people in the recent bread riots and received the blow of imprisonment and displacement that was directed against the people. The aim is not only to oppose the regime but to relieve the suffering of the people by using all possible means. We demolish here so we can build there, and we present Islam in a universal meaning that cares about the interests of Muslims.

['Abd-al-Basit] Is there any cooperation between you and other political factions in Sawhaj?

[Muhammad] In upper Egypt, only the Islamic group exists, and we move without paying attention to cooperation or dialogue with any of those, whether they are political parties, groupings, or anything else. The regime is not paying attention to anybody except us. However, it is possible to cooperate with the Islamic trend in the Labor Party in a manner that will serve Islam. We thank them for adopting the individual's human rights. But, they must stop trying to make us join their party, because we reject the idea of joining any party.

['Abd-al-Basit] Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the mufti of the Islamic group, has issued a fatwa [religious verdict] to kill Najib Mahfuz. Do you agree with this fatwa?

[Muhammad] That writer does not know how to respect Islam. He must be taught a lesson on how to respect this religion and must become an example to others.

['Abd-al-Basit] To what extent do you believe that Najib Mahfuz made a mistake?

[Muhammad] That man is a renegade, and the Islamic hadd [code of punishment] must be applied to him.

['Abd-al-Basit] Do you dream of ruling Egypt?

[Muhammad] We have no ambitions in government, but we desire paradise by proposing the principles of Islam; if we had applied one of them—the zakat—we would have solved many of Egypt's incurable problems. Whenever we abide by the book of God, we see good tidings coming, and whenever we deviate from it, things go from bad to worse because of the wrath of God, and our lives become more difficult.

You do not notice the wrath of God as we do as peasants. We work day and night on our land, we give everything we can offer to the land, but it does not yield anything. We even have at times burned the cotton plants because clearing them of worms would cost more than the yield. Last year, a heat wave ruined the broad bean harvest. What does this mean? It is the wrath of God.

Drugs Worth 20 Million Pounds Seized

JN0208172689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Aug 89 pp 1, 10

[By Husayn Ghanim and 'Amr Ghanimah]

[Excerpt] Officers of the general directorate for combating drugs have foiled another attempt to flood the country with large shipments of drugs. A large amount of hashish and heroin worth 20 million pounds has been seized during an attempt to bring it into the country by an international gang headed by an Israeli who previously had been sentenced in absentia. The gang includes two Lebanese, two Jordanians, two Palestinians, and bedouins from Sinai.

The commodity was found inside secret compartments in a huge refrigerator truck which arrived from Jordan through the port of Nuwaybi'. The drugs were seized following an exciting chase at dawn on 30 July. The truck and its Jordanian driver were seized at the Martyr Ahmad Hamdi entrance in Suez. Two members of the gang—bedouins from Sinai—were apprehended while awaiting the cargo. The prosecution ordered their arrest, and measures are being taken to apprehend the rest of the gang quickly. [passage omitted]

Drug Trafficker Captured 31 Jul

JN0208204089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Aug 89 p 7

[By Muhammad Salah al-Zahhar]

[Excerpt] The Cairo drug investigation department has struck again at drug trafficking figures in the capital. Department officers were able early yesterday to arrest a drug trafficker known as Al-Muna'nishah, the daughter of Manna'ah, the famous drug dealer in al-Jamaliyah, with heroin, cocaine, and opium the vlaue of which is estimated at 250,000 pounds. Al-Muna'nishah is the last member of the Manna'ah family that is known for drug trafficking in al-Jamaliyah. All 15 members of this family have been arrested and are in custody. [passage omitted]

Libya

Jabir Addresses Sudanese Media 5 Aug

LD0508195689 Tripoli JANA in English 1749 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Bayda', Hannibal [August] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir asserted in a statement to the press team accompanying General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, that the great al-Fatih [September] revolution stood, since its inception, very strongly on the side of the Arab people in Sudan regardless of its regimes and that Great Jamahiriyah looks at the Sudanese Arab people as part of the Arab nation able to participate vigorously in solving the problems of its nation and its conflicts with the enemies. He said: We consider the capabilities of our people in Sudan as great capabilities and that it is able to carry out the construction and economic process and building up the power and civilization on the Arab land from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf.

Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir added: We are sure our colleagues in the Sudanese Revolution Command Council have the ability to contain all problems whatever the challenge may be so as to take out people in Sudan to advanced stages and contribute effectively in the making of Arab civilization and Arab unity and taking part in all liberation battles at the national scene from the ocean to the Gulf.

He concluded his statement by expressing his hope that the brothers in Sudan will be able to overcome the difficulties as soon as possible so as we all contribute towards the making of the Arab nation and progress on the soil of Sudan and the soil of the great al-Fatih revolution.

PDRY Foreign Minister Ends Visit 7 Aug

LD0808084989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, 8 Aug (JANA)—Brother Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli yesterday evening after visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

The PDRY foreign minister made a statement to the JANA correspondent in which he said that this visit comes in the context of the brotherly relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the PDRY. Its aim was to review bilateral relations and their consolidation, to develop them, and to promote future cooperation between the two countries. He added that the aim of the visit was to activate the joint commission as well as to discuss recent developments in the Arab arena in particular and other issues of mutual interest.

Chadian Envoys Praise Talks, Depart 7 Aug

LD0708121789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1150 GMT 07 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli, 7 Aug (JANA)—Brother Mahamat Korroum, minister delegate to the Presidency in the Republic of Chad, and brother Mahamat Fadil, who are envoys of Chadian President Hissein Habre, left Tripoli this afternoon after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Before his departure from Tripoli International Airport, brother Mahamat Korroum made a statement to JANA expressing his thanks and esteem for the Libyan Arab people, for their warm welcome and hospitality. He said: "We handed to the brother leader of the revolution a message from President Hissein Habre."

In his statement, brother Korroum also hailed the results of his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah, and said: "We hope that contacts will continue between the two countries in the interest of the two friendly peoples."

Sudan

INA: Talks With Rebels Within 'Next Few Days'

JN0708115889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Aug (INA)—Two delegations representing the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Garang movement will meet in Addis Ababa within the next few days to prepare for the talks aimed at ending the fighting and achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in southern Sudan. This was announced by Sudanese Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Shummu in a statement to an INA correspondent here today.

The Sudanese minister said that this meeting will affirm the beginning of serious peace efforts. He asserted his concern that the representation of the two delegations would be on a good level.

Garang's movement, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], last week announced its agreement to meet with a delegation representing the Sudanese RCC during the first week of this month to discuss the issue of peace in southern Sudan.

Sahlul on Regional Ties, Situation in South

PM0708151289 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Naji; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Naji] Your Excellency, Minister, what are the results of your current visit to the Kingdom [Saudi Arabia]?

[Sahlul] Our visit to the Kingdom is one of the priorities set by His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], with regard to his visits to fraternal states. Our visit to the Kingdom follows our participation in the recent African summit conference in Addis Ababa. The aim is to meet with the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Kingdom's people and government in order to thank them for their leading stances, the Kingdom's noble role, its swift recognition of the government of the national salvation revolution, and their continuing backing for Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Naji] Your Excellency, Minister, could you tell us about the the RCC's current priorities?

[Sahlul] At present we are concentrating on making contacts to pave the way to peace negotiations. Once such contacts and negotiations are under way and successfully achieve their objectives, we will start to confront the economic conditions that have hit Sudan so hard. Furthermore, measures will be taken to allow the publication of newspapers on a regular basis, but according to specific rules defining their tasks and duties. It is also intended to allow the people to participate in power within certain guidelines, systems, and frameworks to be applied once Sudan's current critical stage has been transcended.

[Naji] Your Excellency, Minister, what has been done regarding the resumption of relations with neighboring states in order to end Sudan's isolation from its neighbors?

[Sahlul] Sudan's relations with certain neighboring states were blemished by certain sensitivities and anxieties because of the prevailing conditions in the region, instability, and the practices of some political parties seeking to cause strain in these relations. This is why one of the priorities of the RCC has been to end that tension in relations and to display the Sudanese Government's good intentions with regard to resuming relations with its neighboring states. [passage omitted]

[Naji] How would you describe the security situation in Sudan at present?

[Sahlul] Security conditions have improved considerably, both in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, and in the provinces. Tribal disputes extending right to the north have been ended and peace has prevailed in all the provinces whose security was disrupted by continuing disputes.

[Naji] Your Excellency, Minister, what about the situation in the south and your efforts to end the war led by John Garang?

[Sahlul] Contacts are currently being made to prepare for meetings between the two parties without any preconditions from either side in order to reach an ideal formula for a comprehensive and permanent peace settlement for Sudan, the Sudanese people, and the region as whole. [passage omitted]

Trade Unions Protest Government Ban

AB0608180889 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Eight trade unions in Sudan have sent a message to the military authorities protesting against the government ban on unions. The message reminded the government of international conventions which Sudan had signed, and which they say guarantee the independence of trade unions and the right to act without state interference.

'Intensive' Campaign To Register Aliens, Refugees

EA0608180089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Aug (SUNA)—An intensive campaign will begin on the 19th of this month to record those aliens and refugees who have not registered their names at registration centers and with enumeration officers. The relevant committee has called on all citizens who are employing aliens and refugees or renting offices to them to direct them to go to enumeration centers.

Furthermore, the issue of refugee cards resumes today and will continue until 12 August. It is worth mentioning that 125,429 refugees had been registered at all the centers by yesterday. Cards were issued to 6,530 refugees in the period from 20 May to 1 August.

Kuwait

Cabinet Views Detention of Pilgrims, Lebanon

LD0608152589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1436 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 6 (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers held its ordinary session here Sunday under the chairmanship of Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

At the outset of the session Shaykh Sabah briefed the cabinet on his several hours visit to Saudi Arabia yesterday during which he delivered a verbal message from H.H. [his highness] the amir to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

The message was dealing with H.H.'s personal interest and follow up on the issue of the detention by concerned Saudi authorities of some Kuwaiti pilgrims, still under interrogation, for suspects of involvement [as received] in incidents that occured in the holy city of Mecca during recent pilgrimage.

In statement following the meeting, Planning Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi also said that Shaykh Sabah informed the cabinet members on the outcome of last week's visit to Kuwait by Gambian President Dawda Jawara.

Head of mission of honour that accompanied the Gambian president, Communications Minister 'Abdallah al-Muhsin al-Sharhan apprised the cabinet on the details of talks between a guest and H.H. the amir which aimed at strengthening fraternal ties and enhancing bilateral cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The ministers were also informed by Shaykh Sabah on the outcome of the recent mission by two amiri envoys, Organization of Islamic Conference's Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid and Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin in Ankara and Sofia.

The two envoys had conveyed two messages from H.H. the amir to Turkish President Kenan Evren and Bulgarian head of state Todor Zhivkov, out of H.H.'s friendly bonds with the two leaders.

On reviewing political affairs and recent developments on both Arab and international levels, Dr. al-'Awadi said, the cabinet expressed deep concern over the grave deterioration of situation in Lebanon "which resulted in bitter sufferings of the Lebanese people."

The ministers voiced dismay and disappointment at those regrettable developments in Lebanon and appealed to the higher tripartite Arab committee entrusted by the Arab League to resolve the Lebanese crisis to go ahead with its good offices to reach an end to that tragic situation.

The cabinet also urged all parties to cooperate with the committee which groups the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon and restore (?peace), stability and national unity of that brotherly country.

'Marked Growth' in Money Supply Noted

JN3007151789 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 29 Jul 89 p 16

[Text] The first quarter of 1989 witnessed several monetary developments, among which was a marked growth in money supply, particularly its components in KDs [Kuwait dinar], and the continuous rise in interest rates on KD in the money market, though at rates generally slower than those in the previous quarter, according to Central Bank of Kuwait's Quarterly Statistical Bulletin.

At the end of the first quarter 1989 money supply grew markedly by 4 per cent (KD202 million), totalling KD5,299 million. This growth resulted from the following:

—An increase of KD266 million in the KD components of money supply, which was basically concentrated in time deposits (11.6 per cent or KD265 million over its level in the previous quarter), in addition to a slight increase in both currency in circulation and sight deposits, against some decline in savings deposits.

—A decrease of 4.9 per cent (KD64 million) in private sector deposits denominated in foreign currencies with commercial banks below their level in the previous quarter.

This decrease in deposits denominated in foreign currencies and the increase in KD time deposits are reflected in rising interest rates on the KD—as per amendment of the structure of local interest rates, effective December 11,1988—which reduced the differential between interest rates on the KD and foreign currencies.

Interest rates on KD interbank deposits increase markedly on all deposit maturities at rates ranging between a maximum of 18.32 per cent (from 7.20 per cent to 8.52 per cent) on one-year deposits and a minimum of 13.36 per cent (from 7.22 per cent [to] 8.18 per cent) on one-month deposits, while it was 15.85 per cent (from 7.24 per cent to 8.39 per cent) on three-month deposits.

This rise in interest rates on the KD in the money market is in line with the increase in interest rates on the KD as per amendment of the structure of local interest rates.

During the first quarter of 1989, the KD exchange rate had a mixed performance against major currencies, represented in its decline against the US dollar by 1.86 per cent below its level in the previous quarter and in its improvement against other major currencies, at rates ranging between a maximum of 3.2 per cent against the Swiss franc and a minimum of 0.05 per cent against the pound sterling.

During the first quarter of 1989, the Central Bank increased the issues of public debt instruments, as it offered the issues of treasury bills (from issue No. 36 to issue No. 45), amounting to KD1,000 million.

Meanwhile, eight issues of treasury bills (No. 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 32, 34 and 35), totalling KD770 million, together with issue No. 4 and issue No. 8 of treasury bonds (one-year maturity), totalling KD159.5 million, matured.

Thus, the outstanding balance of public debt instruments totalled KD1,465 million, distributed between treasury bonds (KD465 million).

It can be noticed that the balance of local debt instruments has exceeded the maximum limit (KD1,400 million) of the public loan, which the government was authorised to borrow, as per the Decree Law No. 50 of 1987, following the issuance of the Decree Law No. 13 of 1989 on March 12, 1989, raising the maximum limit of the public loan to KD3,000 million.

During the first quarter of 1989 the aggregate balance sheet of local banks declined slightly by 0.4 per cent (KD56 million) to reach KD12,407 million at the end of this quarter.

On the side of assets this decline resulted from a decrease of KD110 million in local assets and an increase of KD54 million in foreign assets.

On the side of liabilities, this decline is attributed to a decrease in both local resources by KD33 million and foreign liabilities by KD23 million.

It can be noted that private sector deposits with commercial banks realised in the first quarter of 1989, following the amendment of the structure of local interest rates effective December 11, 1988, a noticeable increase of KD194 (4.1 per cent) over the previous quarter.

This increase came as a result of a considerable increase (KD258 million) in KD deposits (especially time deposits) and a decline of KD64 million in foreign currencies.

These changes show the effect of the amendment of the structure of interest rates on private sector deposits, resulting in reducing the differential between interest rates on the KD and major currencies.

During the first nine months of the fiscal year 1988/89 public revenues totalled KD1,604.1 million, 78.1 per cent of the estimates of the general budget amounting to KD2,054 million.

PDRY

Culture Minister Returns From North Yemen

EA0308222089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 89

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirhum, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information, returned to Aden at noon today from a two-day visit to Sanaa. During the visit, he handed a message from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, to his brother 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother Jirhum explained that he was carrying a reply from brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, concerning work towards unity. He said he met his brother, Hasan al-Lawzi, minister of information and culture, in the northern part of the homeland, and discussed with him coordination in culture and information and work towards unity.

Yemen Arab Republic

PDRY Culture Minister Begins Visit 2 Aug

EA0308074089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, member of the Central Committee and minister of culture and information, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon at the start of a visit to the northern part of the homeland.

On arrival at Sanaa Airport, Brother Dr Jirghum said he was happy to be visiting the historical capital of unified Yemen. He said he was carrying a message from brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, to his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary-general of the General People's Congress in the northern part of the homeland. The message deals with joint work towards unity and developments in the Arab region. [passage omitted]

Departs Sanaa 3 Aug

JN0308142689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 aug 89

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum, minister of culture and information and member of the Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland

[People's Democratic Republic of Yemen], left Sanaa at noon today, following a brief visit to the northern part, during which he delivered a letter from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Central Committee in the southern part of the homeland, to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, dealing with common action toward unity and regional developments.

In a pre-departure statement to SABA', Dr Jirghum said he is carrying a reply from President Salih to 'Ali Salim al-Bid. He said his visit to Sanaa was an opportunity to hold useful talks with his counterpart in the northern part of the homeland.

Statement Issued on 8 Aug Agreement With Iran

JN0708110289 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 7, INA—Iraq has called the international community to press the Iranian regime to define its attitude vis-a-vis lasting and comprehensive peace with Iraq and to the entire region.

This came in the course of a statement issued here today by the Iraqi Foreign Ministry on the elapse of a year on the agreement of August 8, 1988 between Iraq and Iran.

The Ministry stressed that Iran should enter into direct negotiations with Iraq under the auspices of the UN secretary general in accordance with the text of the agreement to discuss implementation of Security Council Resolution No. 598 and starting without conditions the comprehensive and urgent release of prisoners of war.

The Foreign Ministry statement reviewed some basic realities before and after the agreement of August 1988 saying that when the Iranian regime unleashed its aggressive war against Iraq on September 4, 1980, it was after achieving a basic goal namely the domination of Iraq and the entire Arab Gulf region preliminary to imposing terrorism and blackmail on the Arab nation and the world especially the Islamic world.

The statement added that Iran throughout the eight years of war rejected any appeal for decision calling for peace issued by the Security Council and all other international bodies that endeavored to end the war and restore peace.

The statement pointed out that Iran did not accept Security Council Resolution No. 598 and continued the war and operations of aggression and invasion of Iraqi territories during the period that followed the resolution and utilized all means of deception and misguiding for carrying on its aggressive expansionist program and avoiding sanctions referred to by the resolution.

The Foreign Ministry statement pointed out that the Iranian regime accepted the resolution one year after its issuance and after sustaining a comprehensive defeat of its aggressive program and after Iraq succeeded in liberating its occupied territories which the Iranian regime insisted on their occupation for several years.

The statement further said that Iraq out of sincere desire in peace and respect of the international community will in stopping war and for not obstructing opportunities of restoring peace, President Saddam Husayn announced on August 6, 1988 Iraq's readiness to ceasefire on the condition that Iran clearly and officially announce acceptance of the resolution and enter into direct negotiation after ceasing fire.

After this announcement, intensive contact were made with the UN secretary general to fix the date of putting into operation ceasefire and the nature of direct negotiations through a message sent by the UN secretary general to the permanent representatives of Iraq and Iran in New York.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran negotiations, the statement said that Iraq out of a high sense of responsibility and keenness on the success of negotiations stressed necessity of an agreement on a fixed course to implement Resolution 598 ensuring balance and equality for realizing the required ultimate result, namely, lasting and comprehensive peace between the two countries and the entire region.

The statement said that the Iranian side resorted in the negotiations to avoid agreement on a fixed course for implementation of Resolution 598 and started placing priorities for applying in a selective manner and in a way realizing for it a benefit without commitment to a unified logic or course in implementing the resolution.

The statement said that such Iranian stances were repeated throughout the negotiations and therefore Iraq would like to affirm basic realities to the effect that Resolution 598 was a peace plan aimed at achieving lasting and comprehensive peace between Iraq and Iran and in the Arab Gulf region under the supervision of the United Nations and that any other interpretation of the resolution as a whole or some of its articles mean departure from its content and aims at perpetuating the state of no war, no peace after the defeat of the Iranian regime forced it to accept the resolution and ceasefire.

The statement said this state of no war, no peace is a dangerous state that does not only threaten ceasefire between the two sides but security and stability in the entire region.

The Foreign Ministry statement said that Iraq strongly warns against the course of partial steps that would certainly not ensure a lasting and comprehensive peace.

It added that Iraq's commitment to the agreement of August 8, 1988 and holding direct negotiations in the form provided for in that agreement conforms to the course of the international community in resolving disputes and does not grant Iraq any privileges.

It pointed out that Iran's non-commitment to the said agreement arouses deep suspicions in its future intentions.

The Foreign Ministry statement added that Iraq calls for direct negotiations out of its sincere intention to reach lasting and comprehensive peace through negotiations and in accordance with the international law on the bases of Resolution 598 which constitutes a comprehensive peace plan.

It added that the agreement of August 8 was very clear to the question that direct negotiations under the supervision of the UN secretary general should cover all topics in 598 and which was not implemented until now with the exception of the question of releasing prisoners of war.

The Foreign Ministry statement pointed out that the 3rd Article of Resolution 598 clearly provides for completion of the release of POWs immediately after cessation of hostilities in accordance with the 3rd Geneva Agreement for the year 1949 which its Article No. 118 provides for releasing POW without delay after ending hostilities and which effectively took place on August 20, 1988.

It pointed out that the International Commission of the Red Cross had on several occasions since August 23, 1988 referred to the necessity of starting release of POWs, but the Iranian regime rejected commitment to provisions of international law in this regard and continues playing with the life and pains of scores of thousands of Iraqi and Iranian humans and keeps them as hostages for achieving political purposes.

The statement said the international community is called to press the Iranian regime to fix its position on realizing lasting and comprehensive peace and offered tangible steps towards this end, leading of which is entering into direct negotiations with Iraq under the supervision of the UN secretary general for discussing the implementation of Resolution 598 and the urgent steps of starting without condition or maneouvering the immediate and comprehensive release of POWs.

Failing to implement these two major steps, means that the Iranian side is not ready to attain lasting and comprehensive peace and to perpetuate the state of no war, no peace and implies affairs and objectives other than those announced, the Foreign Ministry statement concluded.

Cooperation Minutes Signed With North Yemen

JN0608140489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Iraq and the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] today signed joint minutes for cooperation in labor, social insurance, and social care. The minutes, which were signed by Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs, for the Iraqi side and by Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of labor and social affairs, for the YAR side, stipulate exchanging information on labor and social insurance and organizing vocational training between the two fraternal countries.

The minutes include a joint formula for exchanging information on education and vocational training and cooperatives for the handicapped, supporting families, and holding joint seminars and conferences to promote the performance of the administrative and technical organs operating in the labor and social insurance areas.

The joint minutes also stress the need to coordinate the activity of labor institutions in the two fraternal countries, to exchange social research and studies, to promote social development centers, and to try to unify the expressions and concepts of labor and social insurance in the two fraternal countries' institutions.

Planning Minister Returns From Harare Meeting

JN0508175189 Baghdad INA in English 1655 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 5, INA—Mr. Samal Majid Faraj, planning minister, today returned here after participating in meetings of the governmental coordination council of the non-aligned countries information ministers concluded in Harare last Thursday.

In a statement on arrival, Mr. Faraj said the council discussed topics related to the forthcoming meetings of the information ministers of the non-aligned countries due in Havana in September.

'Terrorist' Holding Hostage in Kibbutz Shot Dead

TA0808131889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1246 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] We are reporting from the newsroom on an event which ended a short while ago in southern Israel, near Elat. A terrorist who held an approximately 20-year-old female hostage in a plantation warehouse of Kibbutz Lotan in the 'Arava, was killed by an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. Our correspondent in Elat Yehudit Silberstein is on the line:

[Silberstein] Good day. The event began at about 1330. A terrorist, who infiltrated and reached a date plantation some 2 km north of Kibbutz Lotan in southern 'Arava, toured the plantation and came upon a 25-year-old female tourist-volunteer. He fired at her from a range of about 6 meters. The tourist was wounded. He continued walking, meeting another approximately 20-year-old girl. He took her hostage, hiding in a tool shed inside the plantation.

IDF forces were summoned to the site. The injured girl was transferred to a hospital in Elat. She was very slightly wounded in a muscle at the base of her throat. She sustained no other injuries.

The army units concentrated in the area. At about 1530 the terrorist was shot dead. The 20-year-old girl was rescued safe and sound.

[Newsroom reporter] We have just learned that the hostage held in the shed was a female soldier, who was rescued safe and sound.

As far as is known, the terrorist crossed the border from Jordan.

The slightly injured tourist-volunteer is Laurie Rosen, 25, from the United States. She is hospitalized at Yoseftal Hospital in Elat.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1256, in a news flash, adds that "the terrorist was a Jordanian soldier."]

Arab Sought Swap for 'Ubayd

NC0808131889 Paris AFP in English 1315 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Jerusalem, Aug 8 (AFP)—An armed Arab abducted a young foreign female volunteer from a southern Israeli village Tuesday then was killed in a clash with Israeli security forces, military sources said.

The young woman was freed unhurt but a second woman, an American, was wounded in the clash, the sources said.

The Arab man, who had apparently entered Israel from Jordan, wanted to exchange the young woman for a Lebanese Shiite cleric, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, kidnapped by the Israeli army in south Lebanon 10 days ago, the sources said.

Rabin Cited on Incident

TA0808134589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1325 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] A short while ago, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was asked to comment on the incident in the 'Arava. This is what he said:

[Begin recording] There was an attempt by someone who crossed the border into Israeli territory in the vicinity of Kibbutz Lotan. He injured a volunteer working on the kibbutz and held a hostage, apparently a female soldier. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] overpowered him, killed the would-be abductor, and released the hostage. The affair thus ended. [end recording]

Minister Rabin was speaking following a meeting with UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1335 GMT on 8 August reports that Chief of Staff Dan Shomron, who arrived at the site shortly after the conclusion of the incident, said that "this was indeed a Jordanian soldier who penetrated from Jordan. General Shomron said that this was, of course, not part of the general Jordanian policy, and that Jordan's policy remains as it has always been, namely that Jordan tries to prevent such penetrations, although several such infiltrations have occurred over the past year." The report later adds that the chief of staff noted that "he is convinced that this policy will continue in the future as well." A report from the newsroom on Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks following the death of the terrorist adds that "Yitzhaq Rabin also said that the terrorist was apparently a Jordanian soldier, evidently a madman."]

Gen Shomron Comments

TA0808144089 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Report from Kibbutz Lotan by 'Ido Shargil]

[Text] Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, and Major General Matan Vilna'i, the commander of the Southern Command, supervised the rescue operation at Kibbutz Lotan. At the end of the drama the chief of staff summed up the incident as follows:

[Begin Shomron recording] It was a Jordanian soldier motivated by vengeance. I do not know exactly why, but he talked about a brother and a sister of his who were killed, or his father and brother—I cannot remember exactly. He infiltrated the kibbutz with the sole purpose of attacking and killing soldiers, or Jews in general. [end recording]

The chief of staff said that Jordan continues to do everything it can to prevent penetrations from its territory, although several such cases have occurred previously.

[Begin Shomron recording] I am convinced that Jordan continues to be responsible for making sure that terrorism will not extend to, or reach our country—even when crazy soldiers are involved. [end recording]

Gen Vilna'i Interviewed

TA0808150989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, during a visit he paid to the injured U.S. volunteer from Kibbutz Lotan at Yoseftal Hospital in Elat, by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Shalom, Commander of Southern Command.

[Vilna'i] Good evening.

[Zohar] First, before we get to the events themselves, let us get straight what the identity was of the person who crossed the border. Was he really a terrorist, or a demented soldier?

[Vilna'i] I do not know yet. I can only tell you what I saw in the area. It is my impression, judging by the color of his uniform, that he was a Jordanian soldier. I know nothing beyond that.

[Zohar] He crossed the border from Jordan, that is certain. The question is whether the Jordanians spotted him or tried to stop him.

[Vilna'i] These questions are premature. I believe that in an hour we will know all the details, as the debriefing is currently under way. Till now we have handled the incident itself, now we are investigating everything around it.

[Dan] Can you tell us whether he operated on his own?

[Vilna'i] He was undoubtedly operating alone, at least when he was in our territory. I do not, however, know how he managed to penetrate into Israel.

[Dan] Can you comment on the assessment that he was a madman?

[Vilna'i] I am not an expert in this area, and will not address it at this point in time. I will say, however, that he operated on his own. As to whether or not he was in full command of his senses, I do not know.

[Zohar] You were there for the full duration of the negotiations with the terrorist. What did he demand? What did he want?

[Vilna'i] He wanted all sorts of peculiar things, though nothing concrete or practical.

[Dan] For instance?

[Vilna'i] He requested a Koran. He told some story about brothers of his who were killed, or something similar to that, and all sorts of other things along those lines.

[Dan] What was his scheme? What did he have in mind when he crossed the border?

[Vilna'i] I believe he intended to kill Israelis. That is my impression.

[Dan] Was he equipped with sufficient material to carry this out?

[Vilna'i] He had enough equipment to kill a lot of people. Yes, definitely.

[Zohar] Can you assess the reaction of the kibbutz people, and later the functioning of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], up to the moment when he was overpowered?

[Vilna'i] Our men acted very well, which explains why it ended the way it did.

[Dan] This is not the first time recently where we have witnessed an infiltration from the Jordanian border. The question is whether something has gone wrong in its impenetrability.

[Vilna'i] Look, the border is there exactly for what we did today. In other words, we are deployed along that border precisely for that purpose. It is a very long line, as you know, in the desert. It is quite difficult to cover its entire length effectively. Yet this is exactly what we are doing.

[Dan] Have any conclusions been reached? Has any decision been made on, say, a different deployment along the border?

[Vilna'i] As in every such case, we will conduct a debriefing and study the case. I would not rush to say that we need a different deployment. This specific incident should be studied. After this is complete we will decide what needs to be done.

[Zohar] Has any change been made in the other side's policy, namely Jordan? Was this not a show of laxity?

[Vilna'i] When I took this command I was under a different impression. It was my understanding, based on intelligence information, that the Jordanians were making every effort to prevent such cases from occurring. It seems, however, that their border is also not completely sealed, particularly if the person involved in the incident is a soldier. Perhaps he was the person in charge of sealing the border.

[Zohar] I understand that you are now visiting the woman who was injured in the incident, and that she is in stable condition?

[Vilna'i] She is doing very well. It was a small bullet that penetrated and exited near the shoulder, causing no serious injury. I am not a doctor, but this was my impression nevertheless.

[Zohar] What about the hostage? You must have managed to exchange a few words with her.

[Vilna'i] No, I have not spoken one word to her. First, it's better for her to get away from everything. She was excited enough, she did not need to run into me on top of everything else at this stage.

[Zohar] Well, as she is all right, Gen Vilna'i, we would like to thank you very much.

[Vilna'i] Thank you.

Sharon Rejects Proposed Exchange of Bus Attacker

TA0708181089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Minister Ari'el Sharon says that Hizballah must know that the State of Israel will not accept with equanimity the killing of one of its soldiers held captive by them. Minister Sharon stressed that Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction has improved the chances of gaining the release of the POW's and hostages, and rejected the claim that the abduction endangered their lives. The industry and trade minister toured Samarian industrial firms today. Our correspondent Moti Amir accompanied him and reports:

The industry and trade minister praised the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation to capture Shaykh 'Ubayd, and the Inner Cabinet's courageous decision on the matter. He said there is no truth to the claims that Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction endangered the lives of the hostages.

[Begin Sharon recording] I do not believe that what we are doing endangers hostages. I believe that what we are doing provides an opportunity to rescue the hostages. Our primary concern is for our own soldiers. Our forces were not sent to carry out an operation in order to release people who are not Israelis, although we feel for each hostage held captive by these murderous organizations. If, however, as a result of that operation other hostages are also released, we will be happy. [end recording]

Minister Sharon stressed that Israel has always operated in various ways to rescue its captured soldiers. On the Hizballah threat to murder one of the Israeli POW's, Sharon said the murderous organization must know that Israel will not stand idly by if such an action is taken. Sharon refused to comment on the negotiations to release the POW's and hostages, but rejected the possibility that the terrorist responsible for the Jerusalem bus attack will be released.

[Begin Sharon recording] Nobody even considers the possibility that the murderer will be released. I suggest not dealing with that subject, and showing restraint and patience. We have faced much tougher situations before and we know how to deal with them. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Aftermath of 'Ubayd Abduction Analyzed

TA3007125389 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Jul 89 pp 1, 14

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Do Not Let Him Become a Martyr"]

[Text] The decision to kidnap Shaykh 'Ubayd and bring him to Israel was made following much reflection and consideration. This decision was a gamble, and a great risk was taken. The risk was balanced against the chance the operation might offer.

The chance: The correct use of the card Israel now holds—Shaykh 'Ubayd—might secure the release of the Israeli hostages held by Hizballah, as well as of the U.S. Army officer, Colonel Higgins.

The risk: The shaykh is a religious figure who is greatly idolized by Hizballah men in southern Lebanon. His kidnapping may awaken and fan the fires of religious feeling among Hizballah members. This, in turn, may motivate them to set out on kamikaze missions more often than in the past.

Israel must be very careful not to turn Shaykh 'Ubayd into a martyr. Martyrs act like boomerangs, especially if they are Shiite.

'Ubayd's kidnapping should remind Israel of the kidnapping of another Lebanese Shiite religious cleric: the abduction of Imam Musa al-Sadr [chairman of the Supreme Shiite Islamic Council, who disappeared in 1979] by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's henchmen. The kidnapping and subsequent murder of the Shiite leader, who was thrown out of a plane above the Libyan desert, caused the first political and religious stirring of the Shiites in Lebanon.

In this connection it should be mentioned that Hizballah has recently been going through an unprecedented slump, having sustained telling blows by Amal, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and the SLA [South Lebanese Army].

The shaykh's abduction should be viewed against the background of Hizballah's stubborn refusal to divulge information about two IDF soldiers, Alshekh and Fink, who were kidnapped in February 1986. Hizballah also holds the Israeli Air Force navigator, Captain Ron Arad. Arad is admittedly in the hands of Amal's Mustafa Durani, but Durani is known to have important and close links with Hizballah.

Shaykh 'Ubayd, 36, has undergone religious training and indoctrination in Iran and is known to be close to the Iranian Revolution Guards. This background allowed him to assume the high position of Hizballah commander in southern Lebanon. He is a shaykh of the younger generation, which was cultivated and taught by Khomeyni to spread the Islamic revolution throughout the world. That is why Iran reacted so strongly to the kidnapping.

Shaykh 'Ubayd is also close to Shaykh Fadlallah, leader of Hizballah in Lebanon. Nevertheless, 'Ubayd does not bow to Fadlallah's authority. Shaykh 'Ubayd was a free agent, and merciless. Colonel Higgins, who was taken hostage in Lebanon, was hidden in his home, and 'Ubayd undoubtedly knows where Higgins is being held today. Therefore, the reaction of U.S. President George Bush and his condemnation of the kidnapping is very surprising.

The information held by Shaykh 'Ubayd may be worth more than its weight in gold, and if the calculations of those who decided to grab 'Ubayd are correct, his captivity in Israel may perhaps enable a prisoner exchange between the United States, Israel, and Hizballah.

At this moment it is difficult to know where things will lead. The emotional reactions, both in Lebanon and Iran, and also by the automatic majority in the United Nations, are only to be expected and are no reasons to feel flustered. The question is what will happen in the coming weeks and months.

From the military standpoint, the abduction affords us good reason to be proud. It proves that Israel has both the intelligence and the crack units that give us the capacity to strike at terrorist leaders in their own bases. The fact that the mission was a success increases Israel's deterrence in the eyes of Hizballah and terrorists in general within Lebanon. It also forces the terrorists to expend time and energy in evading the IDF and in hiding. It also disturbs their preparations for terrorist operations and shatters their organizational routine.

In conclusion, Israel has a long score to settle with Shaykh 'Ubayd. This is also important. The terrorists must remember that there is someone who will settle all scores.

Editorial Views PLO Talks, Hostage Situation

TA0708140789 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Aug 89 p 7

[Editorial: "'Arafat Is No 'Ubayd"]

[Text] While all eyes are riveted on the nebulous deal involving the exchange of Israeli and Western POW's and hostages for Shiite detainees, the fifth convention of Fatah, the largest and most central of the PLO's factions, is nearing its end in Tunis. A final assessment of it will only be possible on the basis of an analysis of the resolutions adopted by Fatah's executive council, yet even now it seems that Yasir 'Arafat has managed to clear still another hurdle on the political path he embarked on last December.

This course is still quite distant from that of the Israeli Government. Not only is it remote from the Likud's positions, but it is also very removed from the Alignment's. Nevertheless, it presages a trend of closing gaps. Since December, 'Arafat has been able to make good on the price demanded of him for a dialogue with the U.S. Administration, namely restraining Fatah from carrying out terrorist attacks from Lebanon. Whether in control of things or not, 'Arafat for the moment also appears to have reined in the uprising in the territories, restraining it against graduating to a more violent stage in which the rifle and the hand grenade replace the rock and the Molotov cocktail.

In the political sphere, rivals within his camp contend that by accepting UN Resolutions 242 and 338—and thereby also the State of Israel—'Arafat has given far more than he has gotten from the Americans, who refuse to recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

From the practical standpoint of current affairs, which is to say insofar as the PLO's authoritative reaction to Shamir's plan for elections in the territories is concerned, the support of the majority of Fatah's senior leaders for 'Arafat will allow him, at the close of the conference, to advise the Americans of his acceptance of the plan, albeit with certain reservations. He is also likely to attempt to closely link it to the essence of the political bargaining. President Bush may very well upgrade the level of contacts with the PLO in return for such a declaration. This could be manifested either in personal meetings between Ambassador Pelletreau and 'Arafat, or by allowing 'Arafat to address the UN General Assembly in New York next month where it would be only natural for Secretary of State Baker to "accidentally bump" into him.

These developments will once again put Israeli-U.S. coordination to the test, despite the recent manifestations of it achieved in the course of the hostage affair. After all, this coordination has still not proven itself, as the affair has not yet been concluded, and there still remains the issue surrounding the political question of "territories for peace." One would consequently be well advised not to nurture any illusions that success in the Shaykh 'Ubayd case might change the U.S. attitude toward Chairman 'Arafat.

Under these circumstances, a foolish Israeli decision to adopt Ari'el Sharon's suggestion to kill 'Arafat would be a sure-fire guarantee of a serious crisis with the United States, and would guarantee a tilt of the political pendulum in the direction of the PLO. If anyone requires circumstantial evidence of this he should review the killing of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. As justified operationally as it was, it was politically worthless. Those who did not want an extremist Abu-Jihad, ended up with Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir], who is even more fanatical. Those who do not want Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], may get not only an "Abu-" who is far more extremist, but an even more adamant Bush, more determined than ever to separate himself from Israeli policy.

Arens: 'No Crisis' With U.S. Over Hostages

PM0808101289 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 3 Aug 89 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Paolo Garimberti in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—"We have the right to attack to defend ourselves, and nobody, no country in the world, has the right to criticize us for defending ourselves. Even the United States has said that the blame for Higgins' death lies with his killers, that is, Hizballah. We believe that nobody can really accuse us of having killed Colonel Higgins." This was how Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens answered the criticisms that have rained on Israel for having sparked the "hostage crisis." [passage omitted]

"There has been no crisis with the United States, as some have said," Arens affirmed. "Of course in situations such as this it takes a while to clarify your respective positions and to reach a mutual understanding. Listen, we seized a criminal responsible for acts of terrorism and hostage-taking. The United States did the same in the past with the hijackers of the TWA aircraft or the "Achille Lauro." We believe and hope that our operation can lead to the release of our hostages in terrorist hands and also of all the other hostages. And I believe that the world is beginning to understand why we acted this way: Our sole objective is the antiterrorist struggle."

[Garimberti] Actually, Minister, many people believe that Israel seized 'Ubayd primarily to display its strength and to boost its image as the leading country in the antiterrorist struggle.

[Arens] No, this was certainly no public relations exercise, as some have said. We are the leading force in the antiterrorist struggle and do not need to prove it. The aim of this exercise was, and remains, the release of the hostages—I repeat: all the hostages.

[Garimberti] But the first result of the exercise was Higgins' killing and the death threat to the other non-Israeli hostages. So do you not believe that you have failed in your objective?

[Arens] We believe that Higgins had actually been long dead. Hizballah used Higgins, with revolting cynicism, to set the world against us. But to answer your question, I will tell you that no, we do not believe it was a failure. It is inevitable that when there is fighting there will be casualties, and you cannot make an overall assessment of a military operation by counting the casualties day by day. [passage omitted]

[Garimberti] Mr Arens, do you believe that the Soviet Union has played a major role in the past few days? Could it have influenced Hizballah's decision not to carry out further executions through Shevardnadze's contacts in Tehran?

[Arens] It is possible, though we have no definite information. The Soviet Union has excellent relations with Syria, and Syria controls the situation in Lebanon. The Soviet Union also has good relations with Iran now. So it is possible that it had some moderating influence.

[Garimberti] More generally, what part could the Soviet Union play in resolving the Middle East crisis?

[Arens] The Soviet Union undoubtedly wants to play a major role in this area. Shevardnadze told me so clearly when we met in Paris. But, first, it must correct the imbalance of its diplomatic stance in the Middle East. And this imbalance will not be corrected until the USSR has normal diplomatic relations with us.

[Garimberti] When will that happen?

[Arens] I must say frankly that our relations with the Soviet Union have made much slower progress than I thought following my meeting with Shevardnadze. Of course there have been steps forward—but very limited. I believe that Gorbachev has too many domestic problems to think about this also. And I had confirmation of how many problems he has had a few days ago when I received a delegation from Soviet Georgia, which proposed establishing autonomous diplomatic contacts with Israel.

[Garimberti] To return to the hostages: Do you believe that Iran exerted pressure on Hizballah to forego killing further hostages? Do you have any evidence of more moderate tendencies within the Iranian Government?

[Arens] The indications that we have are mixed. After Khomeyni's death there were some indications of change. But it is too early to say whether they are signs of a genuine reappraisal of the political line or merely smoke signals.

[Garimberti] Why do you believe that the Middle East is the only area in the world not to have benefited from the general improvement in international relations?

[Arens] Because all the governments of this area, with the sole exception of Israel, are totalitarian. Because this is an area where there is the highest level of political intolerance and fanaticism, an area where human life counts for nothing. Many countries of this region have no real desire to make peace with Israel—Iran, Syria, Libya. Throughout the rest of the world a democratization process is under way: Just consider what is happening in the Soviet Union. Not here; there is an opposite trend here. This is why the improvement in international relations does not affect the Middle East. [passage omitted]

PLO Said To Fear Emergence of Local Leaders

TA0608110889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Aug 89 p 2

[Report by Dan Sagir]

[Text] The meetings between Palestinians from the territories and Israeli political leaders, particularly from the Likud, have been a cause for concern in the PLO leadership in Tunis. The organization is confused and cannot consolidate a single, clear-cut position on the matter. This is the assessment of a security source in Israel. The source claims that these meetings have become one of the major sources of tension between the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the Fatah leadership in Tunis. He emphasized that fear of the emergence of an alternative leadership for the Palestinians in the territories was also manifested in the current Fatah convention in Tunis.

According to the security source, since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising], a covert power struggle has been raging between the PLO leadership outside the territories and the local leadership, which has become more confident thanks to its successes in breaking the status quo. The fundamental interest of 'Arafat and his followers in Tunis is to secure maximum control over events, to determine the pace of events and their direction, and to have the final say on important matters. In this context, the meetings between local notables from the territories—who are largely identified with the PLO and who represent its basic positions—and Israeli leaders over the Israeli Government's peace initiative constitute a disconcerting development insofar as the external leadership is concerned.

Israel believes that there are two reasons why 'Arafat and the PLO leadership are not forbidding the inhabitants of the territories from meeting with Israelis: Against the backdrop of the Israeli initiative, and the PLO's dialogue with the United States, the PLO cannot afford to be perceived as an "objector" to talks of whatever nature. Additionally, the PLO in Tunis can simultaneously allow the inhabitants of the territories to express themselves in political talks, and still retain control and supervision over events.

The defense establishment contends that the arguments over the meetings' notables in the territories hold with Israelis add to the internal feuds within Fatah between 'Arafat's supporters and the moderate political approach on the one hand, and elements pressuring the organization to backtrack from the path it embarked on in November 1988 on the other. These disputes, as well as confrontations against a personal background, can also be felt in the territories. This, according to the defense establishment, explains the hostile graffiti following reports of Jamil al-Tarifi's meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, despite the declared support he received from 'Arafat, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], and other personalities in the territories.

The security source believes that even bodily harm or the elimination of one of the public figures who have met with Israeli leaders will not be able to halt the ongoing process of meetings and contacts between Israelis and Palestinians.

Abu-Zayyad on Shamir Talks With Palestinians

TA2807135689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 89 p 11

[Commentary by Ziyad Abu-Zayyad: "Talks, I Stress, Not Negotiations"]

[Text] Yosi Beilin said a few days ago that Israel is conducting indirect negotiations with the PLO. One could say that. It is correct, since the United States is conducting talks with Israel on the one hand and with the PLO on the other, and it is also true to a certain extent about the talks being conducted here—if they are taking place—between government representatives and the Palestinians. There is one difference: There are no negotiations taking place here. No Palestinian in the territories is authorized to negotiate or interested in doing so. For that purpose there is the leadership of the Palestinian people, but when Shamir invites Jamil al-Tarifi he knows full well who the man is and what his positions are. And the truth is that it is not difficult to guess. There is at present no organization besides the PLO that represents the inhabitants of the territories. There is no other option and there cannot be anything else.

There is only one political force on the scene today. It is true that there is a small minority that opposes talks with the Israelis, but the majority supports talks based on the official line: the desire to achieve peace on the basis of two states for two peoples. Can it be understood from this that whoever speaks with Israeli representatives is a PLO member? I do not have to say that. Your [Labor Knesset Member] Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer made remarks in this vein on television yesterday. It is difficult for me to believe that somebody who does not represent the PLO's line or who does not identify with it will purport to represent the Palestinians in talks with Israeli Government representatives. Talks, I stress, not negotiations. In view of the fact that somebody is meeting with Shamir, can it be supposed that he received a green light from the PLO?

Naturally, we are talking about a certain class of people—educated people, leaders—those capable of understanding the PLO's line and of expressing it correctly. I do not know if the meeting between Jamil al-Tarifi and Shamir was positive or negative in that sense, and I am not prepared to judge or to express an opinion, because there is no protocol of that meeting. It is true that Al-Tarifi expressed some of the main points at a news conference, but I do not know who the interpreter at the conversation was and in what language the conversation was held. Each side can leave such a meeting with its own evaluations, and when there is no protocol it is difficult to pass judgment.

I personally do not like being dragged to all sorts of places under the system sometimes adopted by those organizing such meetings. I like to know beforehand with whom I am meeting, under what conditions, and what the topics of conversation will be. Had I been offered to meet with Shamir, I would have used my judgment. I would have considered what such a meeting could contribute and whether it would have been right to hold it at that time. Would I have sought consultation, authorization, or a green light? I can weigh these things myself. I take into account certain considerations, but it is clear that not everybody can decide by himself that he has a green light to hold meetings.

In the past, I have met with people from the Civil Administration and the government, and with an Israeli minister whose name I do not want to divulge. They wanted to hear about the mood and thoughts among the Palestinians. In those cases, too, I used my own judgment. It is hard for me to say that I see a major change in the Israeli position today. It seems to me that Israel's latest attempts to meet with Palestinians are aimed at reducing the pressure exerted by the United States and Europe, to create the impression that the Likud government intends to hold talks and that they have partners for negotiations who are not members of the PLO leadership in Tunis. That, in my opinion, is Israel's consideration, but this does not mean that Palestinians should avoid such meetings; it also does not mean the contrary. Each situation must be considered on its own merit and whether it can contribute anything. Israelis can have certain aims, while Palestinians can have different considerations.

Yitzhaq Shamir said on Israel television that if the Palestinians with whom he is meeting talk about the PLO, he immediately stops them. If that is the case, Mr Shamir, what do you talk about? The weather? Do you believe that the person sitting opposite you feels free to say what he thinks? No, Mr Shamir, I do not think there is any point in such a meeting.

Unrest Seen Moving to Political Developments

TA0708093889 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Aug 89 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] Palestinian figures from Judaea and Samaria yesterday confirmed that changes have recently taken place in the nature of the uprising in Judaea and Samaria. They noted that the locals' attention now focuses on the political situation rather than on violent incidents.

A number of Palestinian personalities who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the decrease in violence can be attributed to a number of causes: 1) the resumption of studies in Judaea and Samaria schools; 2) the feeling of weariness among the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria; and 3) the large-scale detentions and other operations initiated by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] throughout Judaea and Samaria.

Da'ud Kuttab, a Palestinian journalist and commentator, said yesterday that the intifadah [uprising] has reached the stage where political results are the most important thing. "In general, the inhabitants are more interested in Fatah's fifth convention which is being held in Tunis and in the latest political developments related to contacts between Palestinians and Israeli and U.S. leaders. They devote most of their attention, time, and efforts to this matter and concentrate on the political arena," said Kuttab.

Although the resumption of classes in Judaea and Samaria has contributed to greater tranquility, Da'ud Kuttab contended: "I think there has been a conscious decision not to give the Israelis even the slightest pretext to close the schools again. That is why there has been no escalation in the level of violence."

Gaza Official Views Peace Plan, Elections

JN0708093989 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Interview with Mansur al-Shawwa, president of the Gaza Welfare Society, by Yoni Ben Menahem, carried within the "Week in 1 Hour" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Ben-Menahem] There are rumors that you have met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Is this true?

[Al-Shawwa] No, this is not true. I did not meet with the prime minister.

[Ben Menahem] If you ever meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, what will you tell him?

[Al-Shawwa] What I would like to tell him—since my meeting with him will most probably be on the issue of the Israeli peace plan and the elections—is that such a plan will never succeed unless two conditions are fulfilled. The first is the Israeli Government's recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights as a basic principle. The second condition is that elections should ultimately lead to an objective, that of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Without these two conditions, I do not believe that the Israeli peace plan can progress and will be forgotten.

[Ben Menahem] How do you assess the meetings between the prime minister and Palestinian notables from the territories? Are they fruitful?

[Al-Shawwa] Any meeting between any Palestinian figure and Israeli officials is certainly beneficial. If they do not produce good results, they at least do no harm. If they are beneficial, they can bring together Israeli-Arab viewpoints and explain the Palestinian viewpoint to the Israeli leaders. These meetings will undoubtedly clarify the Palestinian position on all that is taking place around us.

[Ben Menahem] If the prime minister invites you to meet with him, will you accept?

[Al-Shawwa] I would accept a meeting with the prime minister. I know what line the Palestinians are following. I also know the Palestinian people's aspirations because they coincide with my own aspirations.

[Ben Menahem] Over the past few weeks, intensive contacts have been held between notables from the Gaza Strip and U.S. Ambasssaor William Brown. You also met with him. What is the purpose of these meetings?

[Al-Shawwa] The U.S. ambassador tries to convince the Palestinian notables of the need to accept the Israeli peace plan as it stands now. In my meeting with the ambassador, I told him that this was unacceptable without the two basic conditions.

[Ben Menahem] How do you assess the U.S. position and role in the Middle East? You remember that when [former] Secretary of State George Shultz was here, the Palestinian notables boycotted him and refused to meet with him.

[Al-Shawwa] The former U.S. Administration, the Reagan administration, was not as understanding of, and as close to, the Palestinian viewpoint as the the Bush administration is. The encouraging statements made by Secretary of State James Baker showed that the U.S. position is changing and that the United States has started to understand the Palestinian viewpoint, Palestinian rights, and the illegitimacy of occupation. Therefore, there was some kind of response from the Palestinians to the Bush administration.

[Ben Menahem] With respect to the Fatah congress currently convening in Tunis, how will the congress' decisions affect the situation and the peace process in the region?

[Al-Shawwa] Most probably, several issues are being discussed at the Fatah congress. Many things have taken place since the last Fatah meeting. However, I believe that in the end, Fatah wil adopt the policies the PLO and the Palestine National Council have adopted; the Palestinian option for peace and the adoption of the peaceful course to achieve our objectives.

[Ben Menahem] What about the elections?

[Al-Shawwa] As I have said, the issue of elections in its present form is rejected.

[Ben Menahem] Do the traditional leaders still have a role to play in the peace process?

[Al-Shawwa] I do not know what is meant by traditional leaders. There are political groups whose role is to speak about politics, to explain our viewpoint through political means. The young generation in the streets and the camps have another role to play, if not as important as the first, to highlight our problem to the world. Every Palestinian individual has a role to play.

[Ben Menahem] I meant: Does the Al-Shawwa family have a role to play now?

[Al-Shawwa] Of course. We are part of the Palestinian people in Gaza. We played a role in the past and we are playing a role now. We will continue in this role to achieve the objectives we seek; the recognition of the legitimate rights and the right to self-determination. We will do this in our talks with Israeli and foreign officials. We also have a role to play in Gaza itself to help the people carry the burden and assist them in all walks of life.

[Ben Menahem] How has the disengagement of relations between Jordan and the West Bank affected the Gaza Strip?

[Al-Shawwa] Prior to the 1967 war, there were no links between Jordan and the Gaza Strip. After the 1967 war, the Gaza Strip's links with Jordan were enhanced, and the Jordanian Government and the king helped the Gaza Strip in all fields, in the economic and social fields. They facilitated travel and passage procedures from here and across the River Jordan to Jordan and the Arab countries. Nothing has changed between Gaza and Jordan following the disengagement of relations.

[Ben Menahem] Does this mean that Jordanian support for...

[Al-Shawwa, interrupting] Jordan's support for the Gaza Strip continues.

Shamir Attempts To End Coalition Against Him

TA3007115489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jul 89 p 9

[Commentary by Ilan Shehori: "Time or Shamir Will Leave Their Mark"]

[Text] The opposition by the coalition of the three condition-imposing ministers: David Levi, Ari'el Sharon, and Yitzhaq Moda'i, is causing quite a lot of bother and headache for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is trying hard to disband it. After threatening to fire Minister Sharon, it seemed that Shamir managed to overcome that obstacle, but during the weekend the three troublemakers let it be known that they are only just starting. The Likud leadership believes that the glue uniting the three will not stick for long, but on the other hand, there are those who claim that their alliance against the prime minister will have a strong impact when it comes to deciding who will lead the Likud in the next elections.

Only months ago, Shamir was considered to have undisputed control over his movement. Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i's influence was completely marginal. David Levi, who has frequently taken to criticizing Shamir, lost many power bases in the movement; Sharon was no threat whatsoever, and it was hard to find a single Knesset member who called himself a member of Sharon's camp. Meanwhile, Moda'i was considered someone who did not exist politically. The animosity between Levi and Sharon was so deep-rooted that it was inconceivable to think about them cooperating against Shamir's leadership.

It was Moda'i who served as the glue for the other two, and he is still the one who fuels the trio into action against the prime minister. At their meeting last week, Moda'i tried to persuade Sharon and Levi to organize a Central Committee meeting against Shamir, a move rejected by the two, for the meantime. Moda'i well understands that his return to the political arena depends on his ability to unite Sharon and Levi against the prime minister, and his plan has so far succeeded.

Ari'el Sharon was the first to cooperate with him, and Levi joined the two later on. Rising from the bottom of the political barrel, Moda'i has again hit the headlines, creating the impression of a dreaded front against the prime minister. Although the political power base of the opposition in the Likud is not especially great, their strength lies in uniting the three ministers, and in shaking Shamir's confidence.

As soon as the trio got together Shamir understood he must act to divide them if he wants to regain the center of power and return calm to the movement. He had two choices, and has failed in both, for the time being. One possibility was firing one of these ministers, and the intention was chiefly Ministers Moda'i and Sharon. Shamir at first considered firing Moda'i, but changed his mind. Later he sought an opportunity to get rid of Sharon, but again changed his mind, claiming that despite everything he prefers to continue maintaining the movement's unity.

The second possibility was to break up the alignment against him by bringing David Levi closer to his fold. Shamir invested efforts in this move, but so far to no avail. Levi refuses to break away from his two colleagues and to jump on the Shamir bandwagon, even at the price of losing a hinted at new Cabinet seat.

Relations between Levi and Shamir have had their ups and downs in recent years, but at the source is Shamir's lack of esteem for Levi and Levi's lack of trust for Shamir. The prime minister has been trying for several weeks to bring Levi under his wing. Shamir makes sure he keeps Levi up-to-date on the most secret and sensitive information. He holds tete-a-tetes with him at least twice a week, and gives him "the honor he deserves," say close associates of Shamir.

The Prime Minister's Office has hinted in recent weeks that if relations between Shamir and Levi are strengthened, one should not discount the possibility that Shamir might prefer Levi to Arens when the time comes to hand over the leadership. Levi has so far not yielded to this courting, and told associates that he has been so hurt by Shamir in the past that he no longer trusts a single word Shamir says. Levi makes clear that he is not prepared to be Shamir's "partner" during his hour of need. Levi well understands that Shamir's intention is to break up the vocal opposition and does not hesitate to show his cards to Shamir. Levi told his supporters that the present struggle is not personal, but rather over the path the movement must take in the future.

Shamir's attempts to bring Levi closer to him raise the issue of the relationship between Shamir and Minister Arens. It is no secret that these ties are identical with the picture usually painted for the public. The Likud leadership presents many examples of Shamir bypassing Arens in the Foreign Ministry by making foreign policy decisions without updating the minister, while at the same time, often using Arens to express his own extremist views so that the prime minister can retreat and make a compromise at a later stage. Arens and his associates are keeping mum about Shamir's attempts to bring Levi closer to him. They do not agree with the evaluation that Shamir might make a turnabout and transfer his support for the next prime minister to Levi.

Whatever the case, the evaluation in the Likud is that the opposition by the three condition-imposing ministers will not last long whether it is the prime minister who takes the initiative and fires one of the ministers, or whether the front simply disintegrates on its own in view of its members' contradictory interests. A U.S. political delegation arrives here next week. Shamir asked its members to meet with Minister Levi. Shamir's answer to the expected U.S. requests and the government resolutions which might follow, might decide the next chapter in the spellbinding series on what is taking place in the Likud leadership.

New Policy To Deal With Refusenik Soldiers

TA0808103689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
8 Aug 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is changing its policy toward soldiers who refuse to serve in the territories. The new policy, consolidated in recent high-level deliberations, stipulates that the IDF will abstain from bringing refuseniks to trial more than two or three times, and will be inclined to transfer them to other units or jobs that do not require tours of duty in the territories.

IDF sources say that the incidence of refusing to serve in the territories is marginal and note that this is why the army is prepared to be lenient with the refuseniks, so as not to turn them into martyrs or political standard-bearers within the army. A senior officer said: "We will stop harassing and repeatedly throwing in jail men such as Rami Hason, not because they deserve to be pitied, but because such martyrdom unnecessarily harms the army."

The document, which was recently sent to personnel management officers in the Northern Command, includes some of the new guidelines:

—Reservists will not serve more than two prison terms (70 days at most) for their refusal. After their second refusal they will be summoned to a talk with the brigade commander and will be tried by an officer holding the rank of colonel.

—At that point, the chief personnel management officer will decide on what is to be done. If he concludes that removal from his unit would be a severe punishment for the refusenik, the officer will choose that punishment.

—If the reservist is elderly and does not serve more than 44 days a year, he will be exempted from army duty.

—If he is an officer, he will be removed from his command. In any case, the intention is to refrain to the extent possible from meting out a third prison term.

—As for soldiers doing their compulsory service, the intention is to try them no more than three times. After the third refusal the soldier would be tried by an officer holding the rank of colonel and would then undergo training for a different job and transferred to another unit.

Survey of Motivation, Views of Draft-Age Youth

TA0708182389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Report by Yaron Tor n]

[Text] According to a recent study, Israeli youth have confidence in their nation, army, and state, and are greatly attached to their country. At the same time, the findings indicate an acute sense of danger and vulnerability, as well as certainty that another war with the Arab countries will occur in the future.

The above are the conclusions reached by authors of a study on motivation to serve in the army, and the views of young people just prior to their entering the army. The researchers, Dr Ofra Meisels, Dr Re'uven Gal, and Mr (Eli Pishoff) are members of the Israeli Institute for Military Research. The survey was commissioned by the Education Ministry, and is the first of its kind since the outbreak of the intifadah [uprising]. The following are some of its findings: Some 40 percent of the interviewees said that they hate all or most Arabs; 42 percent defined themselves as right wing, while 34 percent said they were left wing; 47 percent said they felt a strong sense of patriotism, versus 67 percent who said the same in a similar survey conducted in 1984; 53 percent expressed some understanding for the phenomenon of refusal to serve in the territories; 90 percent declared they would have served in the Army even if service was on a voluntary basis; 60 percent claimed they intend to become officers; only 20 percent of the interviewees expressed apprehension of the military service.

Youth Seriously Injured; Students Release Slated

TA0708172989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Muhammad Jamal Kamal, 13, was seriously wounded in the head this afternoon in the center of Bethlehem. Residents say the youth was wounded by shots fired from a passing Israeli vehicle while students were leaving school. The youth was transferred to al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman told our correspondent Moti Amir that the IDF and the police are investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Arye Ramot, the head of Gaza's Civil Administration, promised to try to release several dozen students and teachers, detained following riots in the Gaza Strip, prior to the resumption of school studies next month. The promise was made in a meeting between Gen Ramot and education officials in the Gaza Strip.

PNF Request To Transfer to Amman Approved
JN0708195789 Amman Television in English 1900 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The Jordanian Government has approved a request by the Palestine National Fund [PNF] to transfer the headquarters of the PNF to Amman.

More on Visit by U.S. Assistant Secretary Kelly

Received by Ibn-Shakir, Al-Qasim
JN0708193489 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister met Mr John Kelly for talks on the latest developments in the Middle East conflict, the situation in Lebanon, as well as Jordanian-U.S. relations and means of promoting them in the economic and financial fields. The meeting was attended by the deputy premier and foreign minister, Marwan al-Qasim; the minister of state for cabinet affairs, Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din; the minister of finance, Basih Jardanah; the minister of planning, Dr Ziyad Fariz; the U.S. ambassador; and the delegation accompanying Mr Kelly.

Mr al-Qasim earlier met the U.S. assistant secretary of state for talks on issues of mutual interest.

Predeparture Statement Cited
JN0708161789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, left Amman this afternoon after a 2-day visit to Jordan, during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and handed him a written message from His Excellency U.S. President George Bush.

Kelly gave a short predeparture statement in which he said: My visit to Jordan allowed me the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn. We discussed a number of issues, including the tragedy of the hostages, the Lebanese crisis, the peace process, as well as bilateral relations between the two friendly countries. He described the talks as important, fruitful, and useful. He added he met with a number of senior officials and ministers to discuss aspects of cooperation between Jordan and the United States. He said: I leave Jordan knowing that it has a wise and courageous leadership running its affairs and leading it toward the interests of its people.

In conclusion, he expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Jordanian Government for the welcome and hospitality accorded to him during his visit. He was seen off by Mu'tasim al-Balbisi, secretary general of the Foreign Ministry; the ministry's director of protocol and senior officials; and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Al-Masri Departs for Moscow To Reschedule Debts
JN0708150689 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Amman, 7 Aug (PETRA)—Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs, left Amman for Moscow this afternoon on a visit to the Soviet Union lasting several days. Al-Masri will hold talks with the Soviet officials on bilateral economic and financial cooperation and on rescheduling Jordan's debts within the framework of the government's efforts to tackle the current economic situation.

3 Soviet Warships Arrive on 'Friendly Visit'
JN0608075689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 89 p 2

[By Samir Abu-Hilalah]

[Excerpt] Al-'Aqabah—Three Soviet warships arrived in al-'Aqabah yesterday morning on a 4-day friendly visit to Jordan.

The group commander and his delegation visited al-'Aqabah District Council and met with District Officer Qaftan al-Majali who briefed them on the history of the city and its distinguished location on the Gulf of Aqaba, and on the city's progress and development within a short period of time. [passage omitted]

Jardanah Says Saudi Aid, CBJ Moves Boost Dinar
JN0608084389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Aug 89 p 6

[By Ghadir Tahir, JORDAN TIMES Staff Writer]

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan's (CBJ) decision Thursday to merge two local banks, the receipt of $200 million as grant from Saudi Arabia and the CBJ announcement that it would intervene in the market to stabilise the dinar have had positive effects on the market and the currency, Finance Minister Basil Jardanah said Saturday.

"As a result of these events, the Jordanian dinar is stronger today," Jardanah told the JORDAN TIMES.

Commercial banks were buying and selling dollars in the range of 830 to 850 fils Saturday, compared with Wednesday's close of 850/870 fils. At the same time, the officially-set exchange rate went slightly down in the favour of the dollar, at 583 fils compared with 576 fils Wednesday.

Jardanah said Saturday the move to take control of the affairs of Petra Bank and the Jordan Gulf Bank does not negatively effect investor confidence.

"The CBJ has taken this step to consolidate the banking system in Jordan," he said. "I do not think that this will discourage investors."

CBJ Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi also struck the same positive note. "The two banks are undercapitalised so we decided to merge them but it shouldn't discourage investors because we are protecting the depositors."

The Arabic daily AL-RA'Y newspaper Saturday quoted Al-Nabulsi as saying the "merger was a preemptive move to stop the collapse of these two banks which would have reflected badly on the national economy."

In a telephone interview with the JORDAN TIMES Saturday, Al-Nabulsi dismissed reports that there was a run Saturday on Petra Bank deposits in the range of JD 3.5 million. "No, it is not true," he said. "In both banks it's business as usual."

Muhammad Abu-Dalhum, head of the deposits department at Petra Bank, said: "Nothing has changed in terms of deposits."

The same situation also emerged in the Jordan Gulf Bank in almost all its branches, according to Jihad Haddadin, head of the deposit section. "In fact, deposits were better than withdrawals today."

Saturday was the first working day for both banks after the CBJ took control of their affairs and installed a new board of directors for the new joint entity.

A senior Petra Bank management source said a top-level meeting was held Saturday to study the situation and their was no reason for any alarm. "The situation is very much normal and there is no reason for any worry," said the source. "All the bank's branches reported normal operations Saturday and we do not see any problem whatsoever,"

Al-Nabulsi also categorically denied reports that the CBJ had pumped in money to prop up Petra Bank. Some sources had said that the CBJ had given $1.8 to the bank Saturday.

Jardanah earlier had said: "If need be the CBJ will interject funds into the banks, but indications so far are that it will not be necessary."

A banking source said Petra Bank may have received the quoted figure as part of a CBJ decision, which was announced Saturday, that it would supply commercial banks with additional amounts of foreign exchange to cover imports included in last week's list of commodities for which foreign exchange was to be made available from the Central Bank.

The CBJ is to sell an amount of JD 16.5 million to commercial banks and financial institutions at 815 fils to the dollar to be sold to customers at 820 fils to the dollar.

Meanwhile, speculation surrounded reports that Jordan was to receive or had received a sizeable sum as "non-interest deposit" from Saudi Arabia. Some said the figure was $500 million, coming from Saudi and Gulf investment houses, but others said it was $1 billion. Al-Nabulsi rejected the reports as "not true."

Jordan received a $200 million grant from Saudi Arabia to help boost its economy. AL-RA'Y also quoted an official CBJ source as saying that a half billion dollar deposit was expected soon.

"I don't know if we are getting any more aid from Saudi Arabia or from other Arab countries but I hope we will," Al-Nabulsi told the JORDAN TIMES Saturday.

Saudi Financial Support Praised

JN0508093289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Aug 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "An Honorable Stand by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques"]

[Text] In recognition of the sincere brotherly ties which connect us with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—and not just to show gratitude—we cannot but praise and hail the support extended to this steadfast Arab bastion by King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, following his meeting with his brother King Husayn.

We, as a people, state, and system, and with our history and geography, know that we will not be left alone to confront the multi-faceted Zionist conspiracy, which is intended to hurt us by harming our national economy and financial situation at this difficult stage in our history.

The Arabs are well-known for their magnanimity, zeal, manliness, and courage in supporting their brothers, particularly at this stage in which the enemy of the Arab nation, in cooperation with a major power, is attempting to put pressure on the states of this nation and to deal with them separately. This is being done as a first step to make the Arab states accept the liquidation of the Palestine question and to impose their de facto policy on the Arab world.

Over the past 40 years, Jordan has stood united as one man against the expansionist colonial danger. It is still maintaining this stand along the longest line of confrontation at a time when foreign pressure has begun to affect its financial and economic situation in an unprecedented manner.

Nevertheless, Jordan has succeeded in confronting the new conspiracy. Its government has sought in the Paris and London clubs to reschedule the repayment of its debts and has reached an understanding with the International Monetary Fund. It was agreed to restructure the Jordanian economy over a 5-year period.

Today, the custodian of the two holy mosques extended support which represents a token of Arab and Islamic brotherhood. Hence, we cannot but raise our heads from this frontline trench on the western Arab front to renew our pledge before the entire world that this Arab stronghold will not bow down or bargain over land and rights. It will remain on the alert to defend the Arab homeland and Arab rights regardless of the sacrifices.

CBJ Supplies Banks With $25 Million 5 Aug

JN0608091089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 89 p 1

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpts] Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], has stated that yesterday the CBJ supplied the commercial banks with $25 million.

Speaking to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the CBJ governor said $15 million of that sum would be sold by banks at the free market rate. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Nabulsi added that the remaining $10 million would be sold at the official rate fixed by the CBJ for the importation of foodstuffs whose prices the government seeks to maintain. He said the CBJ will continue to supply foreign currency as available. [passage omitted]

It will be recalled that last month the CBJ pumped out $30 million, from which a large number of citizens benefited.

Prison Terms for Merchants Violating Supply Law

JN0608075089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Aug 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR—In a session under Lieutenant Colonel Hafiz Amin yesterday, the military court issued sentences against 12 violaters of the Supply Law. The sentences range between 1-3 months in prison for the violaters, who were also fined. Seized items will be confiscated.

Many cases have been adjourned until next Saturday.

Revised Electoral Seat Distribution Urged

JN0108092589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 89 p 4

["Weekly Political Pulse" by Walid Sa'di: "Avoid Lebanon Syndrome"]

[Text] The talk of the town these days is the "National Pact" which is currently being contemplated by Jordan and Jordanians. It was His Majesty King Husayn who first introduced the proposal in May to articulate a national pact as a prelude to the return to parliamentary life in the Kingdom. Since then Jordanians of all walks of life and representing all schools of thought have been buzzing the Jordanian political landscape with various perspectives and points of view on the scope and contents of any such pact. By and large such Jordanian views are harmonious in the sense that their point of departure is loyalty to the Hashemite throne concurrently with the call for the exercise of a string of civil and political rights that are indispensable for the enjoyment of a meaningful parliamentary life.

In this context I personally have not heard yet of any attempt by any version of the proposed national pact to draw heavily on the said experiences of Lebanon and to offer antidotes at this early hour against any political disease similar to the one that has been ravaging Lebanon for the past decade and a half. By that I mean the need to develop, at this early stage, a contemporary conceptual framework for citizenship in which all citizens would be indistinguishable on the base of religion or ethnic origin. For it must be borne in mind that the principal root problem that lies squarely behind the genesis of the contemporary crisis in Lebanon was and is the absence of modern sense of citizenship. With the rise and development of an archaic concept of citizenship in Lebanon, where the Lebanese people were subdivided into competing components on the basis of ethnic or religious grounds, it was inevitable that the Lebanese found themselves in the on-going apocalypse that is consuming the country.

Accordingly, as Jordan is now engaged in drafting its future political course it would be prudent to sound the alarm as of now lest we fall into the "Lebanese syndrome" and find ourselves at a future stage engaged in internal struggles among ourselves. If this proposition is accepted and this warning signal is heeded, the first priority of the projected national pact should be accorded to the surgical removal once and for all of all semblances of distinction between Jordanians of the ethnic, religious or any other basis.

One of the principal flaws in the Jordanian Election law is its persistence in treating Jordanians as if they were several components rather than one family bound together by their shared love for their king and country and their concern for the welfare and future stability of their country.

It would certainly be a bold and courageous step for Jordan to embark now on this new course. We are at the threshold of the 21st century and it is high time that we catch up with the principles of the 20th century in these domains. Besides, Jordan has signed and ratified several international treaties which obligates us to remove any lingering distinction between Jordanians on the basis of religion or ethnic origin. These treaties have the force and effect of law in the country and when invoked they take precedence over ordinary national laws.

In short, for all those who are preoccupied with the drafting of our treaty obligations and heed the call for the contemporary concept of citizenship by, inter alia, cancelling the distribution of electoral districts on the basis of religious or ethnic factors. [sentence as published]

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli Rejects Negotiations
NC0808122689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Hizballah Official Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli announced today that he rejects any negotiations concerning the Israeli soldiers and hostages detained by Hizballah as long as Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is not released.

Algerian Ambassador Remarks on Hostage Issue
NC0708115689 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss conferred today with Algerian Ambassador to Lebanon Khaldi Hasnaoui on the results the Arab Tripartite Committee has reached. After the meeting, Hasnaoui said that the Arab countries' responsibility toward Lebanon still stands, particularly regarding the Arab tripartite committee's work. He said: We have to wait for the report that will be issued by the Higher Arab Committee, and we will make the necesary resolutions in light of that report in the near future. He denied knowing whether the ministerial committee will resume its mission. He noted, however, that he has been summoned quickly to Algiers today for consultations on this issue. He noted that Al-Huss gave him a message for Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid regarding the Arab Committee mission.

Regarding the hostage issue and Algerian mediation efforts, the ambassador said that mediation efforts are not really what are taking place; contacts are. I personally have not negotiated with anyone, he said. He noted that in such matters it is not feasible to raise the issue of a certain group because the hostage issue concerns all hostages. There is no difference between one hostage and another. He added: We must note the repetitive acts of aggression Israel has committed and is committing against Lebanon's sovereignty and its detention of hundreds of innocent people. He refused to comment on Israel's statements on this issue.

Meets Hizballah Officials
NC0708172489 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Algerian Ambassdor in Beirut Khaldi Hasnaoui has visited Hizballah headquarters and met with His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and a number of the Political Bureau members. Hasnaoui expressed Algeria's denunciation of Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction as a crime that has been committed by the occupation authorities. He also emphasized his country's support for Hizballah and all Islamic and nationalist forces.

On his part, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli welcomed Ambassador Hasnaoui and stated: Israel's criminal kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd will increase our determination to escalate resistance against the common enemy. He thanked Algeria for its concern.

Qabalan Proposes Solution to Hostage Issue
NC0408180089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan has proposed an 8-point solution to the hostage issue. It provides for Israeli withdrawal; reviving the Mixed Armistice Commission in the South; deploying the UN force along the border and turning it into a deterrent force; releasing all POW's in Lebanon, Israel, and abroad; and issuing a general amnesty covering all political crimes connected with the hostage issue.

UN's Goulding Departs for Israel 8 Aug
NC0808095389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] UN Assistant Secretary General Marrack Goulding left Lebanon this morning for Israel following a 6-day mission. While here, he held contacts in connection with the execution of U.S. Colonel William Higgins.

Birri Warns Against U.S. Naval Aggression
NC0408151789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has said that Washington is not working for a solution to the Lebanese problem at present but instead to further complicate the situation.

In an interview with the MIDDLE EAST MIRROR newspaper, Birri called on the U.S. President to take into account for once U.S. interests, rather than Israeli ones.

Birri has warned against any aggression by the U.S. Navy because according to him, this will trigger defensive action.

According to Birri, the solution to the Lebanese problem lies in Israel's withdrawal from the south. This withdrawal, he said, will solve the hostage issue and present a key to the settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

More on Birri's Statement
NC0408162589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri made a statement to the London-based MIDDLE EAST MIRROR, in which he asserted that U.S. officer William Higgins was about to be released when an Israeli commando unit abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

Minister Birri said the solution to the hostage issue lies in a meeting of the UN Security Council during which Israel would be asked to release the detained Lebanese.

Minister Birri rejected the Zionist proposal which offers to exchange Shaykh 'Ubayd and other prisoners for Israeli soldiers who are being held in Lebanon. He noted that Shaykh 'Ubayd's kidnapping was part of a long American feature film which covers the entire situation in Lebanon and coincides with the election of 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It also coincides with the announcement by the ad hoc Arab tripartite committee on Lebanon that its mission has failed. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Source Advises Bush To 'Stay Away'

NC0408154189 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] A Hizballah source in western al-Biqa' made the following statement today: The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth executed U.S. spy Higgins, and the voice of arrogance was raised threatening, condemning, and denouncing this action which was directed against the civilized world. We have the right to ask this civilized world: Israel is shelling our towns and villages and killing our women and children, but why do we not hear any voice condemning it? Is killing us the symbol of your civilization and superiority? Israel abducts our scholars and mujahidin while they are in their houses, but the world remains mute as if nothing has happened.

The source added: We tell the big and small satans that you have moved the fleets in order to save your citizens. The media organs have started to talk about a strike against the mujahidin. O you who is residing in the White House, have your forgotten our firmness and strength? Has time erased from your memory the piled-up corpses of your soldiers? The mujahidin's decision had made your soldiers the prey for death. Our advice to you, out of concern for your first responsibility toward your soldiers, is to stay away from our people. Otherwise you will see from us what you do not expect.

Iran's Mohtashemi Sends Message to Hizballah

NC0808071689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, interior minister in the Islamic Republic of Iran, has sent a message to brother Hizballah scholars and mujahidin on the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two relatives by the Zionist terrorists.

The message says: The terrorist crime which was committed by the Zionist usurpers of the holy city of Jerusalem against the martyrs and the mujahidin of Jibshit by kidnapping Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his relatives has certainly been committed in full coordination with the American world arrogance and upon instructions from the world intelligence apparatuses.

This terrorist crime which was comitted by criminal Israel is not the first, and it will not be the last. The Lebanese people and the inhabitants of Jabal 'Amil, who made great sacrifices and offered great men like martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb who was assasinated by the Zionists in Jibshit, will continue their jihad against the enemies under the banner of original Mohammadan Islam, with which we have enriched our souls under the blessed and wise Muslim leadership of Imam Khomeyni, may the almighty sanctify his soul.

Seyyed Mohtashemi continued: This kidnapping crime will only feed the holy wrath of this struggling people, to inflict death and destruction on the unjust hangmen of the Zionist enemy and their American masters and push them into the abyss of humiliation and disgrace.

Seyyed Mohtashemi addressed the scholars and mujahidin by saying: O you Muslim scholars who are struggling in Lebanon, and you the sons of Hizballah. You know very well that as long as the Zionist usurper of Jerusalem is perched on the soil of Palestine, we should not take off the mantle of dignity and jihad for the sake of the almighty. Each Muslim should sacrifice his soul and posessions and struggle in dignity and honor, until he can take off the mantle of humiliation. I trust that the revolutionary Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine will not stand idle before the U.S.-Zionist crime of kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd. The entire world knows that the responsibility for and the repercussions from any Muslim reaction will fall on America and the Zionist usurper of Palestine.

Seyyed Mohtashemi concluded: While condemning the silence of the international community on the continuous crimes and schemes of the Zionist and American enemies against the Muslims and the oppressed, I find it my duty to share the sorrow and the concerns of the Lebanese people, and the people of Jibshit and the resisting Jabal 'Amil, particularly the family of spiritual scholar Shaykh 'Ubayd, calling on them to arm themselves with revolutionary perseverence and to double their studious efforts to protect Islam.

PNSF Praises Hizballah, Criticizes Gen 'Awn

NC0608162989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic l430 GMT 06 Aug 89

[Text] The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] leadership in Beirut has saluted Hizballah for demanding the release of the Palestinian detainees on equal footing as their fraternal Lebanese strugglers and mujahidin.

In a statement issued today, the PNSF leadership said that the military escalation by the Zionist 'Awn clique, which is supported by the Iraqi regime, harms innocent civilians and is accompanied by U.S. naval movements and Zionist concentrations in south Lebanon. This indicates that the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance is coordinating its action.

The PNSF leadership in Beirut said that the response to this filthy plot lies in fortifying the nationalist areas so that they can confront the plot in a manner that will prevent the plotting forces from achieving their goals.

Nationalist Front Issues First Statement

NC0408213089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] The Lebanese Nationalist Front issued its first statement following its meeting today. It dealt with the declaration of the Arab committee's foreign ministers that their mission has reached a dead end and with the consequences for Lebanon and the region, particularly in view of Michel 'Awn's insistence on destroying Beirut and a number of Lebanese towns and areas; the escalating Israeli provocations, aggressions, and massing of troops, including the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his companions; the continued U.S. plots and maneuvers; and the Iraqi regime's continued political, military, and material aid to 'Awn.

The front's statement expressed surprise at the Arab Committee's rush to end its mission only 2 months after embarking on it amid escalating Israeli aggression in the south and while 'Awn continues to destroy the areas that are not under his control. This is as if the committee's statement intends to withdraw the Arab cover from Lebanon and its people, thus exposing them to the imperialist-Zionist-isolationist plot.

The Nationalist Front added: The three foreign ministers' statement conflicts openly with the Casablanca summit resolutions because it dealt tersely with the issue of the Israeli occupation and ignored the U.S. stand that conflicts with the priority given by the summit to implementing Security Council Resolution 425. It said that the committee has adopted the U.S. claims of supporting the Casablanca resolutions.

The Front noted in its statement the committee's grave declaration of a stand hostile to Syria while ignoring the Israeli occupation. It said that this stand falls within the context of the campaign of pressuring Syria to shift its pan-Arab stand in favor of the imperialist-Zionist plans, foremost of which is the Camp David plan. The statement asked: Why has the committee completely changed the priorities of the program approved by the Casablanca summit? That program gives priority to the issue of reforms to be approved by the Chamber of Deputies as a constitutional document, the election of a president of the republic who would form a national accord government committed to the reform document, and support for the Lebanese Government stemming from the national accord in taking the measures that it believes would be necessary to exercise its full sovereignty over Lebanon's territories.

The Nationalist Front statement strongly criticized the way in which the Arab Committee presented the question of reform, as though the Lebanese nationalist powers are ready to accept reform as an alternative to sovereignty. The front described the stand adopted by the Arab ministers as a serious deviation which can only be interpreted as a response to pressures imposed by 'Awn and Iraq, and an endorsement of the American interpretation of the Casablanca summit resolution. This, according to the front's statement, has led the Arab committee to failure and will force the nationalist powers to take their case directly to the people of the Arab nation, instead of taking it to several of their leaders.

The Nationalist Front emphasized its determination to continue the struggle until it can reach the political solution which would liberate Lebanon, reunite its powers, and establish its pan-Arab character on the basis of resisting the Israeli occupation, eliminating the sectarian system, achieving national reconciliation, and establishing the best distinctive relations with Syria.

The statement continues: Amid the current atmosphere of conspiracy, the Syrian troop presence in Lebanon gains its significance as a nationalist guarantee that a second Israel will not be created on Lebanese soil. The statement appealed to all Arab nationalist powers to engage in efforts to provide the various forms of support for the struggle of the nationalist Lebanese and to contribute in every possible way to protecting the future of the nationalist Lebanese in particular, and the future of all Arab liberal nationalists in general.

The Nationalist Front appealed to the world's liberal and peaceful powers to realize the true objectives of the parties hampering a solution to the Lebanese problem. It called on all parties who are anxious to restore peace in Lebanon, liberate its land from the Israeli occupation, reform its sectarian regime, and protect its Arab character to engage in joint action based on these principles to save Lebanon, its presence, affiliation, soil, and sovereignty.

Communist Party Issues Statement on Situation

NC0508112289 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Communist Party [LCP] has expressed regret over the fate of the Arab committee and noted that the communique it released reveals that it had not abided by the Casablanca summit resolutions. [passage omitted] In a communique issued today, the LCP Political Bureau held Israel and the United States responsible for the consequences of the crime of the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. It expressed the view that the massing of the U.S. fleets, the increasing Israeli provocation against nationalist Lebanon, the military escalation by General Michel 'Awn, the isolationist alliance, the Iraqi escalation, and the tripartite Arab committee's declaration that it was halting its efforts reveal the extent of the danger of the American-Israeli-Arab reactionary onslaught against Lebanon and its forces resisting the Israeli occupation and sectarian hegemony. They also reveal the danger of the onslaught against Syria, which supports the struggle of the Lebanese people and nationalist forces, as well as against Iran. [passage omitted]

Islamic Movement Calls For Arab Summit

LD0408204189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1417 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Paris, Aug 4 (KUNA)—A Lebanese Islamic movement Friday called for convoking an Arab summit conference to discuss the Lebanese crisis in the light of the report of the Arab tripartite committee.

In a statement issued here, the "Lebanese Popular Conference" Movement demanded Arab leaders to examine the report of the tripartite committee and to adopt a unified Arab stand to impose a ceasefire in Lebanon under Arab supervision.

The movement; (?which) is chaired by Sunni leader Kamal Shatila, also demanded Arab states to activate the international community in pressuring Israel to withdraw from Lebanon and to expand the role of the UN peace-keeping forces in the south.

A third demand was convening a national conference abroad, grouping parliamentarians and political streams to issue a new national charter, to be followed by electing a president in Beirut under Arab control.

The movement also called for forming an Arab committee in charge of the reconstruction of Beirut and other Lebanese cities.

The Lebanese Popular Conference Movement warned that events in Lebanon do not affect the structure of Lebanon only, but also that of the "Mashriq" which Zionism wants to see turned in several sectarian and ethnic communities under the control of (?Israel).

Tripartite Mission Raises Hopes for Solution

LD0508130789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1013 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, Aug 5 (KUNA)—The Lebanese are more hopeful that the Arab tripartite supreme committee on Lebanon would resume its mission to solve the Lebanese crisis.

Diplomatic sources told KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY here Saturday that if current efforts were successful in solving the problem of foreign hostages, held in Lebanon, this would have a positive effect on finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis.

The sources said there are three political and diplomatic moves that might have a positive effect on Lebanon's ordeal.

They went on that the first move is the current talks held by American Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly with officials in Egypt, Jordan and Israel on peace in the region.

The second move is the efforts exerted to solve the hostages crisis.

The third drive is the expected talks between U.S. President George Bush and King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi arabia, during the Saudi monarch's visit to Washington scheduled for next September 15.

The sources said that King Fahd-Bush talks might tackle the Lebanese crisis and efforts of the three-man higher committee to solve it. [passage omitted]

U.S. Planes Reportedly Fly Over Al-Biqa'

NC0708190289 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR has revealed that U.S. reconnaissance planes flew at a very high altitude over the area of al-Biqa' in east Lebanon 2 days ago. AL-DIYAR added that the request made by the control tower at the Cyprus airport to Cypriot passenger planes to alter their course and to ascend in order to open the way to the U.S. planes confirms this report.

Israel, Syria Reportedly Discuss Lebanon Issue

NC0708181489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The Belgian newspaper LE SOIR has disclosed that Israeli Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon has held secret talks with a senior Syrian official on military issues of mutual interest.

Citing informed Israeli and Arab sources, the paper adds that Sharon met with the Syrian official, who is a close aide of President Hafiz al-Asad, in Brussels in May. AFP, citing LE SOIR, reports that the two men discussed the implementation of the tacit agreement between Jerusalem and Damascus with regard to Lebanon. This agreement has been in force for several years. It adds that they used military maps of Lebanese territory in their discussions. The paper says that Israel and Syria did their utmost to avoid a confrontation between their armies in Lebanon. In this connection, the commands of the Israeli and Syrian Armies specified red lines in the areas they control in Lebanon.

The Belgian paper notes the casual Syrian reaction to the abduction of Hizballah official Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by Israeli commandos.

DPA [DEUTSCHE PRESSE-AGENTUR] has said that the Israeli Embassy in Brussels declined to comment on the report.

Israeli Military Activities Reported

NC0708185089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] In the south, the Jarju' and 'Arab Salim areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah came under artillery fire this morning, with shells reaching the fringes of the town of Habbush in al-Nabatiyah. The source of shelling were occupation forces and Lahd militia posts on the hills of Sujud and in al-'Ayshiyah.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army's military movements and reinforcements in the eastern and western sectors continue and Israeli army aircraft fly day and night over the southern areas. Arrivals from the south have disclosed that Israel brought a number of tanks into Marj 'Uyun 2 days ago and reinforced its positions overlooking the al-Nabatiyah hills. They also reported that Israel institutes naval patrols at night all along the coast from al-Naqurah to Tyre, directing fire at the coast.

In another development, security sources have said that the nationalist Lebanese and Palestinian forces have been placed on a state of maximum alert, especially in Iqlim al-Tuffah and eastern Sidon in anticipation of any Israeli surprise attack or operations like the Jibshit operation.

Meanwhile, a group of resistance men carried out a machine gun attack on the Bayt Yahun crossing before noon today. According to a statement by the Islamic resistance, the attack left a number of men at the post dead or wounded.

In another development today, two soldiers from the Nepalese contingent were killed and four others were wounded when their personnel carrier overturned on the (?Zibqin) road.

New Group Claims 3 Aug London Bombing

NC0408171589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1640 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] In a claim from Beirut, a hitherto unknown organization calling itself the Strugglers of Islam [mujahidin al-Islam] said today it was responsible for an attempted attack on British writer Salman Rushdie near London yesterday. The organization urged Britain to deliver to it the body of its so-called martyr.

Further on Claim

NC0408161989 Paris AFP in English 1614 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Beirut, Aug 4 (AFP)—A previously unknown Lebanese group claimed responsibility Friday for Thursday's bomb explosion at a London hotel and said a man killed in the blast was preparing an attack on British author Salman Rushdie.

"The Organization of the Mujahadin of Islam announces the death of its first martyr, Gharib, fallen while preparing for a bold operation against the renegade Salman Rushdie," the organization said in a statement released here.

The communique, hand-written in Arabic and delivered to a Western news agency in Beirut, asked Britain to return the body of its "martyr."

Iran's late spiritual guide, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, called for Mr. Rushdie to be killed because of the author's latest novel, "The Satanic Verses," which many Muslims consider blasphemous.

"(British Prime Minister) Thatcher, and all those who dare to insult the prophet of humanity will pay the price. We are determined to move to action whatever the sacrifices," the Beirut communique said.

"From this moment, we warn all those who support or facilitate Rushdie's action by printing or selling his satanic book, and we ask them to come back on their decision because our hand is long and will reach them all," it said.

"If the first martyr falls trying to reach his objective, the next ones will fall on his heart," the statement said.

'Ubayd Kidnapping's Effect on U.S. Public Viewed

JN0708190089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Aug

[Palestine broadcast: unattributed talk within the "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] It is now clear to U.S. public opinion that the Israelis have arranged the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd to achieve the return of their prisoners even if it comes at the expense of the U.S. hostages held by some organizations in Lebanon and this abduction endangers the destiny of these hostages.

The Israelis also wanted to anger the United States and prompt it to interfere in Lebanon in one way or another so that it can become a party to the current conflict in the region—a conflict that is causing a major problem for Zionist leaders as a result of the continuation of the intifadah [uprising], the escalation of the Lebanese national resistance, and the situation in Galilee, whose possible explosion is frightening the Zionists.

In the past, we have witnessed the release of Western hostages as a result of the efforts of several parties, excluding Israel. However, Israel has proved that it does not care for the Western hostages, and considered what it has done a step toward securing the release of some of its soliders, who fell into captiviy during their aggression against Lebanese territory. This means that it has added a new aggression to its previous one. By this, Israel will harm its soldiers in the future. As Israel has used the detention of some of its soliders as a justification for a new aggression, those who are subject to this aggression will consider executing them and will deprive them of the chance to remain alive—a chance that feeds the Israeli leaders' policy of aggression.

All this may take place because of the adventurous and hostile mentality of the Israeli leaders, who take pride in organizing a campaign to abduct a shaykh from his house. No wonder if the U.S. public opinion senses the actual burden caused by Israel's aggressive and adventurous policy and if more and more people in the United States raise their voices and condemn this criminal Israeli policy.

Gen Talas Says Armed Forces To Stay in Lebanon

JN0808082089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Al-Raqqah—At the instructions of President Hafiz al-Asad and on the 44th anniversary of the founding of the Syrian Army, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, distributed a number of apartments to martyrs' families in the city of al-Raqqah yesterday.

On this occasion, Gen Mustafa Talas delivered a speech in which he stressed that when leader Hafiz al-Asad issued Presidential Decree No 9 in 1985, he meant to honor heroism and eternalize martyrdom, especially as it is the most precious value. He said martyrs deserve to be eternalized and their families deserve to be honored. The defense minister said that Syria, during the era of leader Hafiz al-Asad, is taking care of martyrs more than any other country in the world.

In his speech, Gen Talas reviewed the situation in the Arab region in general, and in Lebanon in particular. He stressed that the Syrian Army will stay in Lebanon to carry out its pan-Arab task and to defend the Lebanese people's honor and dignity. He said that regardless of the Israeli and U.S. support and the fascist Saddam Husayn's arms and ammunition supplies, 'Awn and his Zionized clique will not be able to achieve what he aspires for, because Hafiz al-Asad's army is lying in wait for him. He added: Just as it confronted the conspiracy and aggression in the past and foiled the agreement of submission, it is today lying in wait for the partition conspiracy that will inevitably fail. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Reacts to Tripartite Committee's Report

JN0708132289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has sent a message to Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr Abdellatif Filali, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh. In his message, Al-Shar' explained some points related to the report of the tripartite Arab committee and the committee's contacts, stressing Syria's eagerness to help Lebanon overcome its ordeal. The message commended the important, effective role played by President Hafiz al-Asad in forming the abovementioned committee and in issuing the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon and consequently helping to put it into force. The message said Syria's excessive concern to implement the resolution and support the committee prompted enemies inside and outside Lebanon to set up a coordinated front aimed at foiling the mission of the committee and leading it to a dead end.

More on Al-Shar' Reaction

JN0708141389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has sent a letter to the foreign ministers of the Arab troika on Damascus' response to their report. Spelling out Syria's position, Al-Shar' detailed contacts and moves since the Casablanca summit.

The Syrian response to the committee is strikingly sharp in its wording but does not escalate the situation toward any particular party. [sentence as heard] The letter said

Syria's only mistake was probably giving excessive attention to implementing the summit resolution and supporting the committee, whereby enemies were encouraged to coordinate moves to abort the committee's task.

Al-Shar's letter added: Permit me to express deep regret for your report's failure to touch on the postures of the military clique. Your report noted a delay in reopening the crossing points [between East and West Beirut], when your committee might have expressed its appreciation for the nationalist and Islamic forces that responded unilaterally—although to date, the three-member committee has failed to press for the creation of a mechanism to stabilize the cease-fire, reopen the crossing points, and lift the sieges. Who is responsible for the delay? Do you expect the cease-fire to stabilize of its own accord without a mechanism to monitor it? Moreover, no one has noted that most of the innocent victims and vast destruction were in West Beirut.

Meanwhile, elaborating on the sea blockade, Al-Shar' asked what is wrong with keeping arms out if the goal is to see to the implementation of the summit resolution by political means. Syria does not favor a military solution to begin with; had this not been the case, the Syrian forces would have accomplished it on the ground years ago.

Al-Shar' added: It is being ignored that the military clique initiated the blockades to pressure nationalist and Islamic parties. In this context, the committee must understand the insistence of the nationalist and Islamic forces that a mechanism be set up to inspect ships and block arms consignments. During your discussions in Damascus, you agreed to the creation of such a mechanism, especially given that the summit resolution tied a cease-fire to the introduction of this mechanism. After your meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, the intention was that this agreement be featured in the press statement you issued in Damascus. But you preferred an announcement on that to be made by Lakhdar Ibrahimi in Beirut, although no such announcement was made. Then, one by one, you began unconvincingly to backtrack from setting up the said mechanism, your efforts having run against obstacles placed by known parties that do not want a solution to the Lebanese crisis at the present time.

Regardless of the extent of commitment, the three-member committee is unable to obtain obligations from such parties as Israel and black market arms dealers. Here Al-Shar's letter quotes the statement of the Lebanese ambassador in Baghdad. Al-Shar' goes on to wonder if the summit resolution's wording has changed and priorities been so reordered as to make a Syrian rather than an Israeli withdrawal the objective sought, especially as your report fails to state that you obtained tangible guarantees that UN Resolution 425 will be implemented.

He added that the summit resolution specified that a government spawned by national reconciliation will be the authority entitled to excercise full sovereignty over Lebanese territory. When you wished to discuss the Syrian presense, we made it clear that we will be prepared to discuss it with the Lebanese Government, that it will be a product of national reconciliation, and that the matter will not pose a problem. However, your report indicates that the divergence of the Syrian and the committee's perspectives is due to the committee assuming for itself the responsibilities of the government produced by national reconcilation.

Further, your report does not refer to the mode of reestablishing security and sovereignty in areas where the Syrian forces do not maintain a presence, for instance, in the south. There have also been no contacts between you and the nationalist and Islamic forces.

Finally, it is to be noted that Faruq al-Shar' has not closed the door; he called on the committee to specify the parties that have led it to a dead end, stressing once more Syria's support for the summit resolution and the three-member committee.

'Text' of Al-Shar' Letter

JN0708170389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1519 GMT 7 Aug 89

["Text" of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's letter to his Moroccan, Saudi, and Algerian counterparts, "published in Beirut daily AL-SAFIR"; date not given]

[Text] Greetings. I have looked at your report published on 31 July 1989 and the review it contained of the three-member committee's work and its contacts to promote an implementation of the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon. Inasmuch as you must be aware of the implications of your report on the overall, volatile Lebanese situation, I am dutybound, in the spirit of brotherhood, to frankly clarify some points and recall some others, proceeding from the historical ties that bind our countries and from a shared concern to help sisterly Lebanon extricate itself from its long-standing dilemma.

It goes without saying that Syria supports the Casablanca summit resolution on Lebanon and the three-member committee. You know better than anyone else the important, effective role His Excellency President al-Asad has played not just in the summit resolution being issued but also in the formation of the committee. It naturally follows that Syria should do all it can to ensure the success of the committee's task and help it implement the summit resolution. Syrian officials have given expression to this approach—be it in their public statements or in their official talks with brotherly and friendly delegations. His excellency the president has given of his precious time talking to you to help your leaders implement the summit resolution. Probably the only mistake Syria made in this regard was an excessive interest in implementing the resolution and supporting the committee, thus encouraging enemies both in Lebanon and outside of it to set up a front aiming to foil the mission of the Arab committee and lead it to a dead-end because the success of the committee is a success for Syria.

In Lebanon, whereas the nationalist and Islamic forces came out clearly for the Casablanca summit resolution and affirmed their cooperation with the three-member committee toward its implementation, an objective, fair reading of the substance of the postures of the isolationist military clique and their successive utterances under the slogans of the wars of liberation and destruction demonstrate beyond a shadow of doubt the utterances' antithesis to the letter and spirit of the Arab summit resolution and wreck the Arab leaders' approach of adopting political means to solve the Lebanese crisis. Allow me to express my deep regret that your report has failed to note the positions not by way of regurgitating tributes to ourselves and criticism of others. [sentence as heard] This is not what we are after. We are saying this out of a conviction that the absence of an objective and fair evaluation of the respective positions of the parties concerned in a resolution of the crisis will not help find the right solutions and ways out. Besides, it may lead to unsound conclusions and judgments, as has happened in your report. Examples are as follows:

1. Your report has noted a delay in reopening the crossings between the two halves of the Lebanese capital, whereas your committee might have shown appreciation for the nationalist and Islamic forces that unilaterally reopened the crossings and the airport. This is despite the fact that, thus far, the three-member committee has failed to take action on forming a mechanism to stabilize the cease-fire, reopen the crossings, and lift the blockades. Who is to be held responsible for reopening the crossings? And do you expect for the cease-fire to stabilize itself of its own accord without a mechanism to police it?

The reopening of the crossings and the airport by the nationalist and Islamic forces was a central step insofar as it was designed to achieve free movement of the people between the two hot areas and lift the blockade—save for the one on arms shipments—they had been suffering in terms of all the vital foodstuffs. Most importantly, this step was a demonstration of the good intentions of the nationalist and Islamic forces in ending the confrontation and animosity imposed by the isolationist military clique on the Lebanese. It is no exaggeration to say that an absence of understanding of and appreciation for reopening the crossings and the airport has encouraged the military clique, which could not but show its displeasure with the move and so a few days later resumed raining its fire on the peaceful inhabitants of West Beirut, without the committee's making the appropriate reaction, except to mourn in its report the innocent souls in Beirut, in order that no one would notice that most of the innocent victims and vast destruction were in West Beirut.

2. Your report says: The sea blockade imposed on the East Beirut ports has not been lifted because some Lebanese parties insist on creating a mechanism to inspect ships and prevent a ship carrying weapons from entering port while other Lebanese parties ask for the lifting of the blockade without any preconditions. The first question that comes to mind in this respect is: What is wrong with the nationalist and Islamic forces' insistence on keeping arms out, if the goal is to implement the Arab summit's resolution by political, and not military, means? Moreover, some people claim that Syria will provide the nationalist and Islamic forces with weapons after halting the entry of weapons into the eastern area. We can say that everyone knows that Syria does not believe in a military solution to settle the Lebanese crisis. Had this not been the case, the Syrian forces would have accomplished it on the ground years ago.

Nobody can cancel the geographical facts and historic relations between Syria and Lebanon, even if some isolationists try to ignore the distinguished relations between Syria and Lebanon—relations that stem from the roots of kinship, mutual fate, and strategic interests.

3. The issue of the sea blockade occupied a good deal of time and great effort on the part of the tripartite committee, Western media, and some Arab mass media. Here, we have to explain some facts and realities which were covered up deliberately by some mass media, not because they do not know them but because they wanted to achieve well known political goals.

a. The military clique in East Beirut is the party that initiated the blockade during the work of the six-member Arab committee and also rejected all its calls in order to use the blockade for political and military pressure against the nationalist and Islamic parties. In other words, it rejected the committee's just political demands for reform and joint rule. In this context, the committee must understand the insistence of the nationalist and Islamic forces that a mechanism be set up to inspect ships and block arms consignments, especially since the isolationsit party continues its military options in conflict with the tripartite committee's trends and the Casablanca summit's resolutions.

b. You remember that during our discussions with you in Damascus, you agreed to the creation of a mechanism to monitor the cease-fire, and inspect the ships, especially since the Arab League Council's resolution on 27 April 1989, which was referred to by the Casablanca summit resolution, tied the cease-fire to the introduction of the mechanism. At that time and after your meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad on 8 June 1989, the intention was that this agreement be included in the press statement you issued in Damascus. But you preferred for an announcement on that to be made by Brother Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the committee's delegate in Beirut, after his arrival in Beirut, although no such announcement was made. Then one by one, you began unconvincingly to retreat from setting up the said mechanism, your efforts having run against obstacles certainly not placed by Syria or the nationalist and Islamic forces but by known Lebanese, Arab, and international parties that do not want a solution to the Lebanese crisis at the present time.

c. Regardless of the extent of commitments that can be made by an Arab or non-Arab party to the committee that it will not send weapons to Lebanon, the tripartite committe is unable to obtain obligations from such parties as Israel and the black market arms dealers, although the commitments made by an Arab party, as mentioned in your report, are refuted by facts and documents, and we do not want to tackle it in this letter. It is enough for us to mention the statement of the Lebanese ambassador in Baghdad in which he stressed that Iraq will continue and is determined to send weapons. If people had been aware of the advanced weapons sent by Iraq, any talk about the "Frog" missiles would have been insignificant. In light of this, Syria could not ignore the just demand of the nationalist forces for setting up a mechanism to inspect the ships and monitor weapons because this mechanism is a practical and realistic guarantee for solving this problem if a cease-fire is sought and a political solution launched to settle the Lebanese crisis.

4. Your report dwelled on contacts with Syria regarding two fundamental points: reasserting Lebanese sovereignty over the entire country using the indigenous forces of the Lebanese authorities and future relations between Syria and Lebanon. You came to the conclusion that you have a perspective at odds with that of Syria on these two points, thus giving the impression, probably unwittingly, that Syria is not concerned for Lebanon's sovereignty and for the Lebanese authorities to reestablish their control over all the country with their own forces. Here, the following clarifications need to be made:

a. The Casablanca summit resolution does not remotely refer to Syria, and the term Lebanese sovereignty being reasserted over the entire Lebanese soil using indigenous forces as stated by the summit resolution was exclusively concerned with terminating the Israeli occupation. Has the the summit resolution been reworded and the priorities reordered so that what is now sought is planning a Syrian rather than an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, especially since your report fails to give assurances to the Lebanese and Arabs that you have obtained firm guarantees on an Israeli pullout from Lebanon as called for by UN Security Council Resolution 425?

b. The question of Lebanese sovereignty being reasserted over the whole of Lebanon has never, throughout our discussion, been a point of disagreement between us; our conception of sovereignty and yours are identical. But talk about two perspectives came to the fore only concerning the excercise of sovereignty and which Lebanese authority should excercise it. Syria's standpoint was identical to that of the Casablanca summit resolution in item No 4, Parapgraph D, which stated that the government emanating from national reconciliation is the one entitled to exercise full sovereignty on Lebanese soil, as Syria is principally anxious to see the Lebanese state achieve this. We have made it clear to you that the practical path to enable the Lebanese authorities to reassert their control over the entire country requires that national reconciliation be achieved on the basis of political and constitutional reforms, rebuilding the state institutions, and implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 providing for Israeli withdrawal.

c. The Syrian presence in Lebanon is legitimate within the context of Lebanese sovereignty and is not in breach of it. The Syrian forces went there under a legitimate Lebanese decision that was confirmed by a summit-level Arab resolution. When these forces were redeployed in Beirut in 1987, again this was under a legitimate Lebanese decision. Yet when you wished to discuss the Syrian presence in Lebanon, we made it clear to you that Syria is prepared to discuss the matter with the Lebanese Government to be spawned by national reconcilation and that this point will not be a problem between us and the reconciliation governemnt. It appears from your report, however, that the divergence of Syria's and the committee's perspectives on sovereignty stems from the three-man committee assuming the responsibilities of the government produced by the national reconciliation even before reconciliation is realized and a reconciliation government is in place.

d. Your report states that, proceeding from the brotherly ties binding Syria and Lebanon, Syrians forces are, gratefully, helping Lebanon's legitimate authorities reassert state control over all the places where Syrian forces are maintaining a presence and that they will assemble and set up positions in al-Biqa'. Whoever asks for brotherly assistance does not place prior restrictions in terms of place and time so as to make it sound inconsistent with brotherly assistance. Success in extending this assitance is not the more important demand. [sentence as heard] Besides, these restrictions of time and place are in conflict with Paragraph D of item No 4 in the aforesaid resolution of the summit which says that the reconciliation government, which is to be supported, will be the one to rule on steps to be taken and its requirements for backing in order to put these measures into force in terms of the required time and the appropriate place.

e. As long as your report affirms the existence of distinguished relations between Syria and Lebanon on the strength of blood kinship, history, and common strategic interests—a base of Syrian-Lebanese coordination and cooperation to be regulated by bilateral agreements, we would ask what is wrong with our argument that these agreements are to be worked out by the Syrian and the Lebanese Governments emanating from the national reconciliation in all the political, economic, cultural, and security areas, among others. Does that definition call for affirming the existence of two perspectives—one of Syria and the other of the committee, as your report says?

5. The Arab tripartite committee defined in its report the means to establish security in the areas where the Syrian forces are present by using these forces for a fixed period of time. However, they ignored any mention of how to establish security and impose sovereignty in the areas where the Syrian forces are not present. Does this not mean using the Syrian forces to disarm and subjugate the nationalist and Islamic forces to establish the unified Lebanese state, while not defining which forces will disarm the isolationist forces in East Beirut and the South Lebanon Army working as an Israeli agent and subjugate them to the Lebanese state's authority? Do not the Islamic and nationalist forces have the right to feel concerned about their destiny and the destiny of their just political demands if they are disarmed in the absence of mechanisms and measures to disarm the other sides? Does this not lead, as mentioned in your report, to putting the Muslims and nationalists in Lebanon at the mercy of the military, isolationist clique in East Beirut, Israel, and its agents in the South?

6. At any rate, we must bear in mind that in all our discussions with you we affirmed the importance of your contacts with the nationalist and Islamic powers and that Syria approves everything you agree on with them concerning this issue because they are the ones concerned in the first place. They are the ones to shoulder the positive and negative outcomes of any solution the Lebanese might agree on. However, these contacts did not take place, and there is no discussion in your report of the presentation of political projects to them. The Arab tripartite committee's declaration that it has reached a deadlock only 2 months after the resolution when, in fact, it was given twice that amount of time by the Casablanca summit raises doubts and poses questions.

In conclusion, I hope that I have succeeded in clarifying some facts and reminding you of some others. I hope this will help the committee pinpoint the sides that really made it reach a deadlocck. I affirm anew Syria's support for the Casablanca summit resolution and its support for the tripartite committee in implementing all its items.

With all my respect.

Afghanistan

USSR's Shevardnadze in Kabul on Working Visit

Comments on Talks

LD0608163489 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Interview with USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent V. Fadeyev in Kabul on 6 August; from the "Vremya" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Fadeyev] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, if you can, may we have a few words about the aims of your current working visit to Kabul?

[Shevardnadze] As for the aims, it is a perfectly natural procedure, a natural need. It is already 5 months since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. We have, of course, been attempting, been trying together with the comrade president, to draw up some results. I want to say literally in two words that truly profound, important changes have taken place here. You feel that the people are in the mood to defend their independence, their autonomy, and the freedom of their country and their motherland. An interesting process is under way in the return of refugees. That is to say, confidence in the government is growing and the armed forces have grown stronger. If we bear in mind the fact that there is now not a single Soviet soldier, or really any Soviet military advisers, and that all operations are being carried out completely independently by the Afghan Army and Armed Forces of Afghanistan, I think we can conclude from that that the decision to withdraw the Soviet troops was the only correct and proper decision.

We talked about the prospects for a political settlement. The inter-Afghan dialogue, including that with representatives of the opposition, is developing. There is a lot of work going on with the field commanders. Recently many field commanders have come over to the government side.

We noted the very constructive position adopted by the Iranian leadership toward the Afghan question and an Afghan settlement. The attitude toward Afghanistan and to the people's power in Afghanistan in the international arena has changed significantly. We can now say that both the president and the Afghan Government enjoy the necessary prestige, influence, and popularity not only in the country, but beyond Afghanistan.

Our talks will continue. I want to add: Do you remember when the decision to withdraw Soviet troops was made? Mikhail Sergeyevich then said that we would give moral, political, and material support. I think our Afghan friends will confirm that this was not mere words. Moreover, this policy of the Soviet Government enjoys the support, active support, of our public.

In conclusion, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the comrade president, Comrade Najibullah, for showing great commitment to the solution of a very sensitive, painful, and aching problem for our people: This is the release of prisoners of war, Soviet boys who have found themselves, so to speak, on the other side. I know that the president is doing everything, everything he can, everything the Afghan leadership can, to resolve this question, taking into account the concern and anxiety of the Soviet people and the Soviet nation. [Video shows Shevardnadze on divan, with Najibullah at other end, speaking to Fadeyev]

Visit to Kabul Viewed

LD0608161989 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1445 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, 6 Aug (TASS)—E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR foreign minister, was in Kabul on 6 August on a working visit. During his stay in the Afghan capital, E.A. Shevardnadze met Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and other leaders of the country.

E.A. Shevardnadze handed Najibullah a friendly personal greeting from M.S. Gorbachev.

During the talks with the president, which as always took place in a friendly and businesslike tone, matters relating to the situation in and around Afghanistan occupied a central place. The sides affirmed the firm adherence of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to the fundamental objective of swiftly finding political ways of solving the Afghan problem through nationwide dialogue and reconciliation, and of maintaining an independent, nonaligned, and neutral Afghanistan which is friendly to its neighbors.

It was noted that following the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, in accordance with the Geneva agreements, the existing republican regime has not only convincingly proved its viability, but is also constantly increasing its influence in the country and augmenting its authority in the international arena. It was stressed that events in recent months have quite graphically demonstrated the correctness of the argument that there is no reasonable alternative to peaceful methods of bringing the Afghan conflict to a close and that in the present situation, even more favorable preconditions are appearing for an immediate end to the bloody civil war between the Afghans, on the basis of reasonable compromises and national unification.

Particular attention was paid to the danger caused by the new spiral of interference in Afghan affairs by Pakistan, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, which are openly inciting the opposition to stir up civil strife and to overthrow by force the legitimate Government of Afghanistan, a danger which is fraught with unpredictable consequences for the whole region. Having stressed the lack of prospects for such an approach to the problem, the sides described it as an unconcealed violation of international norms and duties under the Geneva accords and disregard for the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

Common conviction was expressed on the need for the peacemaking role of the United Nations to be stepped up further in the search for ways of settling the foreign and domestic aspects of this conflict and of involving countries bordering Afghanistan, tne Nonaligned Movement, and the international community in this process. The initiative was affirmed once again on the Soviet and the Afghan sides to hold a representative international conference on Afghanistan, and readiness was expressed to consider attentively any other similar proposal which could help to find the shortest road to a comprehensive and just Afghan settlement.

The USSR foreign minister stressed that the USSR fully supports the political course being followed by the Afghan leadership, continues and will continue to provide Afghanistan with diverse aid and assistance in the defense of the republic and the economic and cultural development of Afghanistan.

The problem of releasing as quickly as possible the Soviet servicemen languishing in the captivity of opposition groups was the subject of special discussion at the talks. On this matter the sides worked out a coordinated program for further joint actions.

During a meeting with S.A. Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, there was a detailed exchange of views on matters concerning bilateral Soviet-Afghan relations and cooperation in various fields. It was noted that, despite the complicated military and political situation in the country, the USSR continues, in accordance with its current obligations, to provide the Republic of Afghanistan with broad and diverse assistance, including economic assistance. This aid and assistance will continue to be provided in the future in the most diverse directions, including through direct ties between Soviet republics, oblasts, and towns and Afghan partners.

The Soviet side expressed its readiness to help settle refugees returning to Afghanistan and promote the restoration of the economy of the country within the framework of the Soviet contribution to the program of extraordinary economic and humanitarian aid to Afghanistan through UN channels.

At E.A. Shevardnadze's meeting with A. Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, special attention was paid to questions of coordinating the foreign policy efforts of the two countries in the interests of forming favorable external conditions for an Afghan settlement, particularly in the context of the forthcoming 44th Session of the UN General Assembly. A. Wakil gave information about the preparations being undertaken in Afghanistan in connection with the 9th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Nonaligned Movement, and stressed the faithfulness of the Republic of Afghanistan to the ideals of this movement.

In E.A. Shevardnadze's conversations with S. Tanay, minister of defense of Afghanistan, G.F. Ya'qubi, minister of state security, and M.A. Watanjar, minister of interior, there was a thorough exchange of opinions on specific aspects of the sitaution and on the state of the country's armed forces.

In the course of the meetings and conversations with the Afghan side, it was stressed that its general line will continue to be based on displaying, as before, the necessary flexibility and constructiveness, while giving a proper rebuff to opposition attempts to usurp power and eliminate the government by coercive methods, in order to start an inter-Afghan dialogue which would have the ultimate aim of achieving national accord between Afghans.

On the Soviet side it was stated that such a policy meets with its full understanding and support, and that the Soviet Union will continue to do everything in its power to aid the realization of an Afghan political settlement.

Departs Kabul 6 Aug

LD0608162289 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1613 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, 6 Aug—E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR minister of foreign affairs, who has been here on a short working visit, left Kabul today for home.

Rocket Lands on Intercontinental Hotel 7 Aug

BK0708102489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1012 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, Aug 7 (AFP)—A rocket fired by suspected mujahidin gunners scored a direct hit on the 214-room Intercontinental Hotel here Monday, but guests and staff said there had been no casualties.

The rocket, one of a barrage of at least eight missiles to hit the Afghan capital Monday, smashed into the fifth-floor Khyber suite and tore through the fourth floor, causing a large fire.

A second rocket slammed into the cemented area around the hotel's swimming pool, again without causing any casualties, the staff said.

Fire trucks rushed to the scene and the blaze was extinguished about one-and-a-half hours later.

The luxury hotel, which houses most distinguished visitors to Kabul, was built during the reign of the King Zahir Shah and was once part of the Intercontinental chain, but is now state-owned.

Since the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan was completed on February 15, it has housed mainly visiting Western journalists and United Nations personnel.

It was the second hotel in Kabul to be hit in recent weeks by rebel rockets fired from the hills surrounding the capital. The state-owned Kabul Hotel, located near the presidential palace, was hit in July, but no casualties resulted.

Several kindergartens and schools have received direct hits and school holidays have been extended up to August 12 to protect children.

There was no immediate word on casualties from the other rockets that struck Kabul Monday. At least 38 rockets hit the city's suburbs Sunday killing nine and injuring 35 by official count.

Rocket Attack Confirmed

BK0708131989 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] At least eight rockets hit the Afghan capital, Kabul, today. One of them fell on the city's top hotel, setting the building on fire but causing no casualties. The fire was put out in 1 and ½ hours. There is also no word on casualties from other rockets that struck Kabul today.

Over the past 4 days, the city has been the target of rocket attacks without any break.

'Terrorists' Rockets Hit Kabul Market, Homes

LD0708165589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Murderers and terrorists whose hands are stained with the blood of thousands of our compatriots continued their crimes today by firing 34 surface-to-surface rockets on residential and crowded areas of Kabul. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from the area where rockets hit that a rocket fired by these criminals supported by Pakistani state terrorism hit the Ariana market, where hundreds of our compatriots shop for their families, felling a number of bread-winners and annihilating the fruits of their labor. While some of our patriots were leaving the area in panic and others were searching for their dear ones, two other rockets, assistance provided by the murderous U.S. backers, hit the area and once again a number of children and elderly people were bathed in blood. Another rocket hit the Intercontinental Hotel and severely damaged our national endowment. Other rockets hit the mud homes of our compatriots, and their screams of hatred for the perpetrators of this crime rose with smoke of powder to sky. Homes, the result of toil and hard work, were razed to ground.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of the rocket attack, eight of our compatriots, including children, women, and elderly men were ruthlessly martyred, and 18 others were injured.

10 Reported Dead

BK0808023089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Rocket attacks on the Afghan capital, Kabul, continued for the 4th consecutive day [yesterday]. More than 30 rockets landed in Kabul, killing at least 10 persons and injuring 40. The rockets fired by the mujahidin also hit a Kabul regime missile dump.

Meanwhile, the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, returned home yesterday after his impromptu visit to Kabul.

Mujahidin Capture 6 Posts Near Kabul, Kill 28

BK0708164189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1614 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 7 (AFP)—Mujahidin guerrillas have killed 28 Afghan Government troops and captured six military posts near Kabul during the past three days, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said Monday.

The Muslim guerrillas on Sunday attacked an Army base at Bagh-e Da'ud, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) west of Kabul, killing eight soldiers and destroying a tank and three other vehicles, AIP said in this northwest Pakistan city.

A mujahidin commander and three guerrillas were killed during the attack.

Afghan resistance fighters also captured six posts in Char Deh District, south of Kabul, and killed 20 soldiers on Saturday, the agency said.

In recent weeks the mujahidin have stepped up long-range rocket attacks against the Afghan capital. A rocket barrage Sunday on Kabul killed nine people as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in the city on a half-day working visit.

The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said the mujahidin shot down a regime helicopter near northern Konduz city, close to the Soviet border, killing all on board Saturday. It did not give any figure.

ANA said Muslim guerrillas also killed five soldiers and destroyed two tanks in the Khoshab area of southern Qandahar Province the same day.

Mujahidin Operations 'Last Week' Reported

BK0708160189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin reportedly shot down a helicopter and destroyed three tanks, besides causing losses of life in several operations last week.

Reports say the mujahidin shot down a helicopter near Konduz on Saturday [5 August], killing all members of the crew, including two pilots.

In a clash with Kabul forces in the Khushab area of Qandahar Province, the mujahidin killed five soldiers and damaged two tanks.

In another operation at (Banawadi) in Baghlan Province, the mujahidin damaged a tank and wounded three soldiers.

Meanwhile, over the past 4 days, Kabul has been the target of the mujahidin's continued rocket attacks.

More on Foreign Ministry's View of UN Statement

LD0508210589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman has welcomed the UN secretary general's statement in connection with the situation in Afghanistan and added that the United Nations and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar himself played an important role in the signing of the Geneva accords. The signing of these accords, which at that time was considered a victory for the United Nations, as well as Resolution 20 [as heard] of the 43d UN General Assembly session put new responsibilities before the UN secretary general. As a result, he has had to play an active role in ending the war and ensuring peace in our country.

While the statement by the UN secretary general is considered timely, we do not consider it sufficient. More than 14 months have gone by since the signing of the Geneva accords; war and aggression against our country are more intense than ever. Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords, which is the main reason for the intensification of the war and aggression, has called into question the United Nation's international prestige and pledges.

The spokesman added that the United Nations can play a principal role in the observation of the Geneva accords by the concerned sides and can supervise their implementation via the UN Good Offices Mission. He also expressed hope that the UN secretary general, based on the responsibilities that have been entrusted to him by the UN Charter and the resolution of the 43d UN General Assembly, will take practical steps in order to achieve lasting peace in the country and in the region by making more serious efforts, such as visiting Kabul and Islamabad, and taking urgent measures and holding consultations in this regard. He should do these things so that innocent Afghans under fire from rockets launched from Pakistan, which originates from the country's violation of the Geneva accords, innocent Afghans who are suffering great financial damage and losses of life, will achieve peace and stability in their country.

While the Republic of Afghanistan stresses its full agreement with the UN secretary general on the need for the political settlement of the issue and sincere observation and loyality to the spirit and content of the Geneva accords—and Afghanistan has implemented them with full honesty—it expresses once again its readiness and full cooperation to implement the UN resolution dated 3 January on the Afghan issue. It hopes that the UN secretary general will encourage Pakistan to express a readiness in practice to cooperate in fulfilling those responsibilities which have been entrusted to it in the Geneva accords and in the statement of the UN secretary general and to take practical steps in this direction.

Coalition To Participate in Interim Government

LD0608143889 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Aug. 6 IRNA—The eight-party coalition of Afghanistan will take part in the interim government provided that the seven-party alliance fully accept the agreement previously signed between the two groups, a leading coalition member said here Saturday.

Muhammad Karim Khalili, also a member of the Nasr organization Central Council, stressed that it was up to the prime minister of the interim government, Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, to inform the coalition when he would convince the alliance members to accept the agreement completely.

He criticized the interim government for not only failing to solve Afghanistan problems but also for aggravating them. "Because it (the interim government) is not composed of all Afghan Muslim forces", he noted.

Khalili condemned the massacre of 30 Afghan mujahidin commanders by Golbuddin Hekmatyar's forces and emphasised that it would disturb Islamic unity among combatant forces, He announced readines to mediate among the alliance members, adding that the issue would be solved through a rational solution.

He ruled out formation of a coalition government comprising the left-wing, the right-wing and mujahidin forces. He reiterated that the Afghan nation wanted an Islamic government and noted that if they failed to find a political solution to this end, they would continue their armed struggle.

On the role both Iran and Pakistan could play for the achievement of the objectives of mujahidin, Khalili said Iran and Pakistan can play effective roles towards future of Afghanistan especially in uniting Islamic forces.

He regarded expansion of Iran-Soviet ties as relations between the two neighbouring countries.

"If the Soviets accept our conditions after the liberation of Afghanistan and formation of an Islamic government, we do not advocate unfriendly ties with our neighbouring countries including the Soviet Union," he said.

Expressing confidence that Iran's relations with the mujahidin were based on an Islamic and ideological principle, Khalili ruled out any possibility for any undesireable consequences facing the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan as a result of improvement of Iran-Soviet ties.

Keshtmand Congratulates Poland's Kiszczak

LD0708013289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0419 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 4, BAKHTAR—Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan has sent to Warsaw a congratulatory message on August 3 addressed to Czeslaw Kiszczak, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party on his election as chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Poland.

'Groups' in Ghowr Province End 'Armed Activities'

LD0508085489 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Kabul, August 4, BAKHTAR—A 700-member armed group and 8,000-member unarmed group headed by Ibrahim Beg gave up armed activities and joined the national reconciliation policy in the Ghowr Province on August 3.

According to a BAKHTAR reporter from Chaghcharan, the groups were warmly welcomed by Abdul Razaq Asmar [name as received], chairman of the cultural and social services affairs of the Ghowr Province, deputy minister of the ministry of state security, state employees, scholars, clergies, elders and social figures of the province. [passage omitted]

The group members which were active in the composition of Mohammad Nabi extremists group and armed with light and heavy armaments organized in local security posts in 150 villages in the province for keeping peace there.

Joining of the groups to the policy of national reconciliation has ensured peaceful life for 21,000 people there.

Earlier, two groups consisting of 303 armed and 1,000 unarmed men had joined the process of national reconciliation in the Zarquli and Dawlatyar [names as received] villages of Chaghcharan as well. [passage omitted]

Severe Clashes Between Rival Groups Noted

LD0508085389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 4, BAKHTAR—As a result of the internal differences between the Golbuddin extremist group and its rival groupings severe clashes occurred recently in various parts of the country as a result of which heavy casualties were inflicted upon the hostile sides, report our military correspondents.

One report says that forty seven persons from a rival group were taken prisoners by Golbuddin group and one person attached to Golbuddin band was killed as a result of the armed clashes occurred recently between the said groups in Banow District, Baghlan Province.

Likewise, similar clashes happened in the Mir Bacheh Kowt District, Kabul Province and Pashtun Zarghun District, Herat Province as well as related areas of Lowgar Province as a result of which seventeen extremists from the rival groups were killed and thirty six other wounded. Similar clashes still among the extremists continue in some parts of the country.

According to another report two Sterila type ground-to-air rockets and two sets of ground-to-ground BM1 rocket launchers which had been hidden in the suburbs of Kabul city for launching on residential areas were timely discovered yesterday by the personnel of the Ministry of State Security.

Combat Successes in Jalalabad, Other Provinces

LD0708021389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] In continuation of mopping up operations in various parts of the outskirts of Jalalabad city, operations were carried out yesterday in some regions of the district of Chaparhar, as a result of which 73 (?tank) shells, 147 artillery shells, 104 antipersonnel mines, 1,800 heavy machinegun bullets, 17 light infantry weapons, 171 mortar shells, seven boxes of shells for PK machineguns, 15 boxes of DShK ammunition, 1,500 air-defense shells [as heard], 234 heavy machinegun bullets [as heard] and five boxes of Kalalashinkov ammunition were seized by the security forces.

An authoritive source in the armed forces mentioned the above points to BAKHTAR's military section and added that yesterday the enemy, who does not have the ability of fight face-to-face against our heroic armed forces, with the support of fire artillery fire by the XI Army Corps of Pakistan, fired long-range weapons into the residential areas of Jalalabad city and security posts around it and at the units and companies in the front line. As a result, two personnel of the armed forces were martyred and five were injured.

The report adds that the brave units in Nangarhar Province attacked enemy gathering places and positions. As a result of air and artillery strikes, 36 enemy were killed and 83 were injured. Among those killed are a number of leaders of these groups, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabi armed mercenaries. Also three missile systems, five recoilless rifles, eight mortars, 17 rocket launchers, 130 missiles, two BM-12 systems, two communications systems, one tank, and three arms and ammunition depots were destroyed.

According to another report, yesterday the murdering groups linked to Pakistan fired heavy weapons onto some areas of Paktia and Qandahar Provinces and Khowst District, but did not cause any loss of life. As a result of retaliatory attacks by the units of Khowst District, 13 enemy were killed and 22 were injured. Two ringleaders of the groups, (Wali al-Rahman) and (Mer Ahmad), are among those killed.

BAKHTAR on 8 Aug Operations
LD0808080889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 7, BAKHTAR—As a result of the mopping up operations of the armed forces carried out during the past 24 hours in the east and south-western directions of Jalalabad 250 mortar shells, 114 rockets, 14 cases of bullets of heavy machine-gun and an assorted of armaments fell at the hand of the armed forces, an authorised military source said.

The extremists with the support of the 11th Pakistani Corps attacked front lines of the detachments of the armed forces, security posts and ouskirts of Jalalabad. Four servicemen wounded during the attacks.

The artillery and air forces of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) retaliated twenty seven extremists killed and 24 wounded.

A serviceman and 3 civilians were wounded during the attacks of the enemies in the Khowst Grand District and Qandahar and Herat Province.

The telling blows of the armed forces killed 32 and wounded 10 enemies in the provinces. A large quantity of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed.

Bangladesh

Japan To Assist in Flood Prevention Measures
OW0408140889 Tokyo KYODO in English 1339 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 4 KYODO—Japan will help Bangladesh build embankments along rivers in central Dhaka as part of international aid for prevention of perennial flood disasters in that country, government sources said Friday.

The cost of the 3-year project, estimated at 10 billion yen, will be mostly provided by Japan in the form of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Japan will report the aid to an international conference on flood measures for Bangladesh scheduled for November in London, the sources said.

Japan and six other major industrialized nations at their annual summit meeting in Paris last month welcomed the London conference and agreed to extend cooperation.

Japan will help build embankments with a total length of more than 10 kilometers in a 30-square-kilometer area in central Dhaka, and install drainage pumps and flood warning systems, the sources said.

Bangladesh, crossed by the Ganges and two other major rivers, is annually hit by floods. Last year's floods, the heaviest for a century, claimed 2,300 lives.

Record Amounts of Heroin Seized in Western Area
BK0508080889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 5 (AFP)—Security officials in western Bangladesh have seized more heroin in the last two months from a single district than total seizures nationwide in the last 10 years, a newspaper said here Saturday.

The BANGLAR BANI, quoting local security sources, said the record 82.3 kilos (181 pounds) of heroin worth 26 million U.S. dollars had been seized in Jessore District on the border with the Indian state of West Bengal.

The paper said drug traffickers had chosen Jessore, 136 kilometres (85 miles) from here, as a safe transit point, adding that other nearby districts were also being used. Jessore is a busy border post astride a popular land route between the two countries with reportedly relaxed security checks.

Most of the heroin smuggled into Bangladesh through its borders with Burma in the east and India in the west is sent on to third countries, the remainder being consumed by local addicts, whose numbers are reportedly on the rise.

Official figures in June estimated the number of addicts in the country at two million, but unofficial figures put the number at between five and seven million.

The paper said most of the addicts were young educated males under 30, who were responsible for most of the growing number of urban crimes in Bangladesh.

30 Kilograms of Heroin Seized; 2 Arrested
BK0808014089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Thirty kilograms of heroin worth about 30 crore taka was seized from two residential hotels in Jessore yesterday. Two persons have been arrested.

India

Gandhi Concerned for Safety of Sri Lankan Tamils
BK0708164489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed the hope that a forum would be constituted to ensure effective devolution of power to the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka. He was talking to the Indian participants of the conference on nonalignment in international relations in New Delhi today.

Mr Gandhi referred to the discussions with the Sri Lankan delegation led by the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratane, in New Delhi and said that he felt that India was able to convince them about our concern that there was really no simple solution to the problem and both sides have to take hard decisions. The prime minister said that it is important that the Tamils themselves are convinced about the security arrangements being provided to them in the wake of de-induction of the Peacekeeping Force in Sri Lanka. This was an issue on which there had been lengthy discussions. He said India does not want the Peacekeeping Force to stay in Sri Lanka even a minute longer than necessary.

A warm reception was accorded to about 900 CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel this evening at Madras harbor on their arrival from Jaffna. Seven hundred more soldiers of the Peacekeeping Force are scheduled to leave Sri Lanka tomorrow.

Anti-India Broadcasts by Sri Lanka Reported
BK0508053489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The minister of state for information and broadcasting, Professor K.K. Tiwari, told the Rajya Sabha that Sri Lanka has recently introduced some external broadcast services directed toward India to intensify its anti-India propaganda. In reply to a question, the minister said All India Radio has an exclusive service of over 12 hours for Sri Lanka.

In reply to a separate question, Professor Tiwari said Doordarshan [television] gave 72 minutes to Congress-I in its national news bulletins for the period between 1 April and 30 June. As against this, the opposition parties 75 minutes, 20 seconds. He said the time given to the prime minister in the news bulletins was 68 minutes in April, 124 minutes in May and 101 minutes in June.

'Guarded Optimism' on Paris Cambodia Talks Voiced
BK0808034589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] India has expressed guarded optimism that the ongoing Paris talks on Cambodia will lead to a settlement bringing to an end that country's agony. Making a statement in both Houses of Parliament yesterday, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said officials of the 19 countries, including India, are now engaged in preparing a draft final document. The concerned ministers, who are to resume their meeting later this month, are likely to sign the agreement.

Rao Hopes for Nonaligned Move on Afghanistan
BK0508053289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, has expressed the hope that some initiatives for solving the Afghan problem will emerge during the forthcoming summit meeting of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade. Addressing the Parliamentary Consultative Committee attached to his ministry in New Delhi yesterday, he assured the members that India will continue to make every effort to help find a political solution to the Afghan problem.

During the discussion, members expressed concern over a large number of sophisticated weapons pouring into the hands of Afghan rebels. They cautioned the government about the danger of these weapons filtering across the border and coming into the possession of anti-social elements in the country.

Rao Travels to Australia for Commonwealth Meeting
BK0508052889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, left for Canberra in Australia this morning to attend the Commonwealth meeting on South Africa. The 5-day meeting begins tomorrow. The committee of Commonwealth foreign ministers will prepare a report on South Africa in preparation for the Commonwealth summit to be held in Kuala Lumpur in October. The summit is scheduled to discuss measures to widen and intensify sanctions against the racist Pretoria regime. The Cambodian issue will also be discussed at the summit.

Gandhi Foundation Assailed for Disruptive Acts
BK0808050189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Kudal Commission, inquiring into the affairs of the Gandhi Peace Foundation and connected organizations, has observed that these organizations have deviated from their basic aims and objects and even associated themselves with disruptive and imperialist forces. In its final report presented to Parliament yesterday, the commission said, as two of these organizations—Gandhi Smarak Nidhi [Memorial Fund] and Gandhi Peace Foundation—are associated with the name of the father of the nation, there is a need to insure that they do not indulge in any activity that may tarnish the image of Mahatma Gandhi and bring a bad name to the country. [passage omitted]

Agency reports point out that according to the commission's findings, the beneficieries of these foreign funds are organizations run and patronized by persons like Mr Madhu Dandavate [member of the opposition front, the Janata Dal], Mrs Pramila Dandavate, Mr George Fernandes, Mr Ravi Rai, Mr Purushotam Kaushik, Mr Dhanik Lal Mandal, Mr Radhakrishnan, and Mr A.C. Sen, where reports describe them as the so-called Gandhians. The commission also pointed out that these voluntary organizations indulged in collection of sensitive data and supplying it to foreign agencies for analysis and use. A number of these organizations operating in the border and coastal areas have, under a garb of development programs, obtained and published maps and communicated them to foreign agencies. Investigations reveal that the organizations had obtained these maps clandestinely and passed them on to foreign agencies. It said appropriate statutory provisions should be made to put a stop to all these activities which can be detrimental to the security of the country.

Ministry Denies Comment on Bofors Gun Performance

BK0508054289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The Defense Ministry has denied that there had been any dilution in the requirement of ammunition, affecting the performance of the 155-mm howitzer gun [acquired from Swedish company Bofors]. In a statement in New Delhi yesterday, the ministry said the impression sought to be conveyed by a member of Parliament in this regard on the basis of the CAG [Comptroller and Auditor General] report is not correct. The statement said the CAG report itself acknowledged that the gun had achieved the stipulated range during demonstration firing before the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The statement said the member concerned is also on record as having confirmed this.

Iran

'Source' Urges U.S. Guarantee on Iranian Assets

LD0808083689 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug 8, IRNA—Iran would step in to use its influence for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon only after assurances from the United States that frozen Iranian assets would be freed, a report said there Tuesday.

"The first step should be taken by the U.S. and if Tehran gets satisfied that its assets will certainly be unfreezed [as received] then the second step will definitely come from Iran," a source said to be close to President-elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was quoted. The unnamed source told the TEHRAN TIMES that a report claiming that the U.S. was willing to return the assets was not convincing.

"If the White House really wants that Iran should try for the release of the hostages it will be proper if such a statement as appeared in the London weekly (SUNDAY EXPRESS) be announced officially by Washington," he said.

However the source while acknowledging that Iran had spiritual influence in Lebanon stressed that this was only "limited" and that "no guarantee" could be given that the Western hostages would be freed.

London's SUNDAY EXPRESS claimed that U.S. President George Bush had proposed to release the Iranian assets frozen by President Jimmy Carter in 1979 if the Western hostages were freed with Iran's help. The assets including cash in American banks and military hardware paid for before the Islamic revolution are worth several billion dollars.

"Well you know earlier too the officials of the United States made proposals on the issue which never materialized," the source said.

"The U.S. proposal should be concrete and there should be convincing grounds that these proposals will be translated into action," the TEHRAN TIMES quoted him.

"It's a well known fact that we do not have any direct or indirect hand in hostage taking. Of course, we have spiritual influence in Lebanon which we can use in our efforts for the release of the hostages there."

In its editorial the English-language daily said Iran was "desperate" and needed the assets for reconstruction. "(The U.S.) has blocked their release without any legitimate reason and has not shown any sincere intentions in this regard," it said. "If the U.S. keeps such a stance particularly at a time when Iran needs its assets desperately for reconstruction... how could it expect from a revolutionary state to step down from its fundamental principles?"

The paper noted that renewed debate over U.S.-Iranian relations had emerged after Israel's abduction of the Lebanese alim Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd on July 28 and the subsequent execution of the American hostage Lt. Col. Wiliam Higgins by his Lebanese captors.

"We have experienced in the past that whenever the U.S. hostages faced death threats by their captors the U.S. Administration responded with messages for Tehran through different channels.

"The idea behind these messages was either to threaten Iran or to lure this Islamic country for some sort of concessions.

"However, President George Bush has resorted to threats much lesser [as received] than his predecessor, Ronald Reagan," it said but noted that Bush was "under severe pressures" from Republican Party hawks to take hostile action against Iran.

The paper called the U.S. an oppressor for not returning what belonged to Iran and said therefore any relations between the two countries at present would be a "lamb and wolf relationship."

"At the same time," it added, "as the officials of the Islamic Republic have said repeatedly, the doors are not completely closed and the right intentions and thoughts can help resolve the problems."

'Foreign Policy Expert' Interviewed on Hostages

LD0808091789 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—If all hostages held in Israel and Lebanon were freed it would prove that Iran had always been working for humanitarian ends, an Iranian foreign policy expert said.

He said the Israeli kidnapping of a Lebanese religious leader was aimed at tarnishing Iran's image under its new president.

"In my view if Western hostages and Muslim and Iranian hostages are freed it would be a great achievement for the world of Islam," said Dr Mohammad Javad Larijani in an interview. "It will make it clear that Iran has always been working for the benefit of humanity."

The former deputy foreign minister made the comments in an interview with the evening daily RESALAT published Monday [7 August]. He also spoke on foreign relations, Iran's future defence policy and peace talks with Iraq.

On the Zionist abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Larijani referred to the timing of the action—the day of presidential election in Iran on July 28.

He said the world and especially Western Europe were seeing positive signs on Iran's future and were seeking ways to improve their ties with Tehran under President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. "This is exactly what's annoying the Jews and the Zionists. They thought they should come and ruin Iran's image and stick a so-called terrorism label on it," he said.

However, the events were turning against Tel Aviv's favor. This time the Israelis had fallen into their own trap, he believed. Because Iran's position on the hostage issue remained constant.

On Iran's foreign relations, he said in the next decade Iran would enjoy an exceptional position in the Islamic world, develop a strong defensive capability and achieve economic progress. Countries of the world will have no option but to establish peaceful ties with Iran. In the next decade domination seeking powers will become disappointed with their ambition of dominating Iran, he said.

The United States and Zionists were fearful of Iran's status in Islamic community and its relations with Western Europe whose 350 million people of various nationalities were uniting under a common market and seeking markets for their products.

He added that peace in the Middle East was in the interest of Western Europe. However, this was "detrimental" to the United States and it was working against it.

On peace with Iraq, Larijani said Baghdad did not want to implement Resolution 598 and had proved this in many ways. Iraq had no respect for international regulations or the territorial integrity of any of its neighbors. Iraq was seeking to become the regional policeman and the role it was playing in Lebanon was a step towards this goal, he added.

"Any regional country which wants to become the gendarme will enter into clashes with other countries and Iraq will have conflicts with Iran.

"Even if other regional countries give in to Iraq's role, Iran will not and this will lead to new round of conflict. The United States, the USSR, Western Europe and regional countries are totally wrong to think Saddam as gendarm of the region can protect their interests."

On the U.N. role in implementing Resolution 598, he said as an international body it had responsibility in this regard. However, he stressed Iran must rely on God and itself in recovering its rights. "No one will shed tears for our lost territories and we ourselves must get every inch of it back."

In the next decade Iran's defence strategy was crucial for protecting its rights and territorial integrity. Having experienced aggression, Iran must make itself stronger. The people must learn to forego certain basic needs for the sake of improving the country's defence power.

But he added: "This is not a militarist thinking... We are not after expansionism and domination of other countries."

Hostage Responsibility Lies With U.S., Israel

LD0708191989 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1730 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Abduction and hostage-taking in Lebanon are now in a complex situation and despite the fact that some solutions may exist to end them, it seems that the issue will remain tense for some time and the honest efforts cannot come to fruition in view of the imperialist expectations of the United States.

The execution of U.S. Colonel Higgins, who was the deputy commander of the UN forces observing the cease-fire in southern Lebanon, easily upset the Zionist regime's efforts and aims in their abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Friday prayer leader of Jibshit in southern Lebanon, was abducted 2 weeks ago in a nighttime raid carried out by Israeli terrorists. He was taken to occupied Palestine. The death threat against Col Higgins made by the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth who were holding him was not taken seriously by the U.S. Government. In the same way that the organization last summer announced its intention to execute that U.S. hostage on a charge of espionage, the Washington government tried not to take it too seriously; but now, the mistake committed by the Israeli regime has faced George Bush with the greatest crisis since he took power. Once before, the hostage issue had formed Reagan's greatest crisis during the 8 years of his term. This time it seems the Bush administration is intent on not giving any so-called concessions to the Lebanese hostage-takers. However, had the United States put Israel under pressure, making it release Shaykh 'Ubayd, then no hostage would have been killed in Lebanon, nor would another's life been threatened.

It is clear that with its lack of a proper understanding of the situation, U.S. imperialism has forced the Israeli regime to make the situation even more complex than it was before. The Zionist regime abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd in pursuit of certain aims: the crushing, or at least weakening, of the truce agreed upon in Tehran between the Amal and Hizballah Movements, and the exchange of Shaykh 'Ubayd for some Israeli soldiers, as well as for all the Western hostages in Lebanon. If, as some Lebanese sources stress, Col Higgins was about to be released and the Israeli action caused his death, then we must either believe that the Israeli regime inadvertently caused his death and the deepening of the present crisis, that the Israeli regime, in light of its expansionist aims and its constant preoccupation with creating tension in the region, abducted Shaykh 'Ubayd intentionally, in order to achieve its short-term objectives, as well as expecting other, long-term results.

Now, is there a solution? Clearly, the first step for a logical and wise solution is that the United States and Israel should refrain from any act that might complicate the situation further and endanger the lives of the hostages. The president of our country has said there is a thoughtful and logical solution to this crisis. Furthermore, the Algerian Government also has spoken about the possibility of finding a solution. Of course, for the U.S. officials, who intend to frighten the Lebanese people and the clandestine Lebanese groups through the dispatch of their naval fleets and their show of power, the military option may also exist. However, it is clear that any kind of military action or the assassination of members of the combatant and Islamic groups of Lebanon could expand the area of crisis.

Now, in the wake of the Revolutionary Justice Organization's postponment of its execution of another U.S. hostage, Cicippio, all responsibilities lie with the United States and Israel, and what course of action they take. Military action is in no way a solution. As to diplomatic action, the U.S. problem is that it cannot enter direct negotiations with hostage-taking organizations. This reveals the dead-end military and political situation that Washington and Tel Aviv face in this crisis. Of course, the possibility also exists that the hostage crisis may gradually calm down. However, who will be responsible for its deepening once again and its extension in future? It seems that in this regard, once again, all responsibilities rest with the United States.

Hostage Crisis Caused by 'Global Arrogance'

LD0808095289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] One of the conspiracies hatched by global arrogance against the struggling and risen nations is acts of terrorism and hostage-taking. Global arrogance, which is deeply hostile to the Islamic revolution, has led to such deeds against Iran, too, both directly and indirectly. Among these deeds were the explosion at the Islamic Republic Party Headquarters by the hand of the hireling hypocrites; the detonation of a bomb in the presidential palace, which killed the country's president and prime minister; and the attack on the passenger airliner and massacre of innocent civilians, which global arrogance carried out in order to confront the Islamic revolution and to promote terror and fear.

Such deeds, which are carried out by global arrogance all over the world, wherever some sort of opposition against their colonial policies is observed, have caught up with them also, and the nations that realize one must speak to tyrants and bullies in their own language have resorted to retaliatory measures, which incidentally cannot be endorsed by conscientious people under any circumstances.

The latest terrorist incident, beginning with the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his bodyguards and the retaliatory action of killing the U.S. hostage, has become the top headline of world news. These incidents once again demonstrated that lives of human beings must not be endangered in order to achieve political objectives; and the plot that global arrogance has chosen in order to confront the struggling nation has now troubled them more than anyone else. No doubt, as long as global arrogance remains committed to such deeds, they themselves will be responsible for such incidents as the killing of the U.S. hostage, because it was they who choose this path first. The Islamic

Republic of Iran, which is one of the original victims of this criminal policy, once against stresses that problems and difficulties should be solved by relying on law; and in this connection it points out that the international organizations and forums shoulder a heavy burden of responsibility. Had the international organizations and forums reacted strongly in the face of Iraq's terrorist attack on the Islamic Republic of Iran, perhaps the world would have not face these ugly incidents today.

British Embassy Premises May Become Parking Lot

NC0708211489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
2 Aug 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Municipal Corporation of Tehran is actively considering dismantling the building of the former embassy of Britain, informed source told the TEHRAN TIMES yesterday.

The source with the sole condition that he not be identified further said, "There are several requests from businessmen and others in that area who are desperate for lack of space for parking their automobiles."

"Well, you know that the area where the former embassy is located is housing thousands of commercial offices and the businessmen and the visitors to the commercial officials desperately need a suitable place for parking," the same source said.

The former embassy building has enough space to fulfill the needs of parking in this heavily business populated area," he said.

The former British Embassy building is one of the oldest buildings in the central Tehran. It has historical importance. In 1941 the world's great leaders, including Soviet Leader Joseph Stalin, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill held a summit meeting connected with World War II at this very place.

"You know," he said, "we do not like to do this but maybe we have to dismantle the building because of our urgent needs."

In the meantime, a report from London said yesterday that the British Government has served notice to the Iranian Interest Section in Britain that the Iranian-owned the 'Royal Hotel' will be put to auction.

The hotel which was built some 50 years ago has been idle for the last 10 years and there are some outstanding dues to the British Government against the hotel.

Soviet Ambassador Interviewed on Joint Relations

NC0708201489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
1 Aug 89 pp 1, 7

[Excerpts] Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Gudev yesterday said he hoped that Irano-Soviet relations will improve in diversified ways.

Talking to the TEHRAN TIMES Gudev said that the current visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is part of a series of contacts by the officials of the two countries for the exchange of views which is continuing for the last several months.

The Soviet minister was due to arrive here last night at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

"The common theme of the regular contact by the two countries' officials is to strengthen the bilateral ties," Gudev said.

President-Elect Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani last month visited the Soviet Union at the invitation of Soviet Leader and President Mikhail Gorbachev where he received a head-of-state like reception in Moscow. [passage omitted]

The Soviet Ambassador Gudev told the TEHRAN TIMES that Irano-Soviet cooperation in defense fields will take place according to the accord signed by the two sides in Moscow.

Gudev said that his country will continue its efforts for implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 'collectively' and through 'bilateral contacts'.

"Of course regional issues will also receive due attention during the talks in Tehran which will start today," Gudev said. [passage omitted]

Heavy Industries Minister Returns From USSR

NC3107082289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Heavy Industries Minister Mr Behzad Nabavi, who headed a 60-member delegation of economic and industrial officials to the Soviet Union on an official visit, returned to Tehran last night after signing a memorandum of understanding on Iranian-Soviet cooperation with Mr Katushev, Soviet minister for foreign economic relations.

The Central News Unit reports that after his arrival in Tehran, Mr Nabavi told correspondents that his talks with the Soviet premier and economic and industrial officials were useful and constructive. He added that these talks were in continuation of the agreements reached during the meeting between Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev in Moscow last month, and new agreements on industrial and technological cooperation between the countries were also reached. He went on to say: In implementing the extensive economic and industrial agreements between Iran and the Soviet Union, the Soviet ministers of heavy industries and of foreign economic relations are to visit Tehran separately during the next few weeks.

Pakistani Agriculture Minister Arrives 6 Aug

LD0608050389 Tehran IRNA in English 0455 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—Pakistani Federal Minister for Food, Agricultural and Cooperatives Rao Sikandar Iqbal arrived here Sunday and welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Issa Kalantari.

During his 4-day stay, Iqbal and his accompanying delegation will hold talks on consolidation of bilateral relations and exchange views on agricultural cooperation.

Talks will be focused on collaboration in water supply projects, agricultural education, export of tropical fruits and agricultural machines, silkwork farming and cattle breeding.

An agreement is expected to be signed at the end of his visit.

Economic Talks Held

LD0708090189 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 7 Aug 1989

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Pakistan's federal minister for food, agriculture and cooperatives held separate talks here with Iranian ministers of economics and construction jihad on expansion of aricultural cooperation.

Rao Sikandar Iqbal arrived here on for a 4-day official visit at the head of a delegation on Sunday.

In his meeting with Economics Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani, Iqbal showed interest in carrying out irrigation projects, exchange of technical experts and export of rice and tropical fruits to Iran.

Iravani underlined Iran's potential in serum production, encroachment of running sands and mulching and expressed hope that the visit will culminate in the expansion of bilateral agricultural collaboration.

He referred to border exchanges between the two countries and indicated that the volume of trade could even be further increased. In the past four months it was valued at dlrs [dollars] 450 million, he said.

With the establishment of railway links between Kerman and Zahedan in southeastern Iran, the cost of transportation between the two countries would fall considerably, the Iranian minister noted.

Collaboration in fields of rural development, fishery and other areas were also discussed between Iqbal and Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Foruzesh.

Islamic Movement of Afghanistan Leader Arrives

LD0208223989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Asef Mohseni, the leader of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan and a member of the seven-party coalition, arrived in Tehran Wednesday afternoon for talks with Foreign Ministry officials on the Afghan issue.

The leader of the Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, in an interview with the Central News Unit, said: The Afghan issue should be resolved between Iran and Pakistan and the Afghan mujahidin. If there is an acceptable proposition, then, no doubt, the Soviets must stop their support for the Kabul regime.

He added: The present government, unfortunately, is not popular and the internal differences put it in jeopardy. He said: The mujahidin must achieve better unity because final victory is not possible without unity among the various Afghan groups.

TEHRAN TIMES Assesses Afghanistan Situation

NC2807183289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "No End in Sight to Afghan War"]

[Text] When the Soviet forces withdrew from Afghanistan five months ago,it was predicted by many that the government of Najibullah was going to be toppled in a very short time. However, Najibullah is still at the helm of power and has solidified his position in this war-torn country.

The Mujahidin in all this time have not been able to carry through a meaningful military operation and this has hurt their credibility up to a great extent.

In the first few months after the February Soviet withdrawal, Mujahidin trying to justify their unsuccessful military operations used the cold weather and heavy snow in the region as a legitimate excuse. Today, weather has warmed up and there is no trace of any snow but the fate of Mujahidin is the same.

The provisional government, which is comprised of the Pakistan seven party alliance does not represent all the groups and parties involved in the Jihad of Afghanistan and has not been able to win unanimous support. As a matter of fact they have differences which caused fighting among themselves.

To review the success and failures of the Islamic groups in Afghanistan one has to consider several parameters. Most important of them is the "tribal" issue and the other one is the issue of school of thought (mazhab). But what seems to be reason behind the slow progress of the Mujahidin movement to day is another parameter: Their over enthusiastic dependence on foreign supporters. On this the U.S., Saudi Arabia and Pakistan have important roles in the provisional government. A slow transfer of arms to Mujahidin by these countries was due to their foreign plicy considerations. Although these countries appear to have the same general aims their regional and short term priorities show differences.

On the top of the list of countries who support the provisional government is the U.S. It seems that the Americans do not want to see an Islamic government in power. But paradoxically, Golbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, one of the most radical and fundamentalist groups in the alliance enjoys very close ties with the USA. Even so, informed political sources believe that Hikmatyar wil eventually be eliminated by the Americans.

This is because the Americans see any fundamentalist government in Kabul to be against their interests and contrary to their regional strategy. This corresponds, not surprisingly, with the stated position of Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs. Bhutto even though a faction of Pakistani military support Hekmatyar.

Iran on the other hand, as another regional power who has a say in this matter is worried to see an American-style Islamic government in power and interprets this as a conspiracy against its Islamic Revolution. Soviets understand and are fully aware of all the differences. They also know that all the parties involved in the opposition including their foreign supporters are against the government of Najibullah in Kabul and they will not tolerate it under any circumstance.

Given the foreign influences on the rival Afghan organizations an the presence of both the incumbent government and its foes in the Mujahidin ranks, it is very difficult to foresee an end to civil war that has raged in Afghanistan for ten years and to expect a liberal democratic government in charge.

Cabinet Approves Bill Settling Disputes With India

LD0508172989 Tehran IRNA in English 1704 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—The cabinet ministers Saturday approved the bill on the settlement of disputes on Iran's 255-million-dollar loan to India's steel organization and Iran-India agreement for the purchase of concentrated iron ore of India's Kudremukh mines after hearing explanations. The session was chaired by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi. Ministers of economic and financial affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, and of mines and metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi and their deputies gave the explanations on the bill.

Meanwhile, Minister of Road and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya presented a report to the cabinet ministers on the readiness of a 14-kilometer highway linking two ends of Orumiyeh Lake, northwest of the county. The minister said that the 1700-meter bridge over the lake, established with cooperation of engineering section of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), has been one of the most important projects accomplished after the victory of the Islamic revolution.

The cabinet also discussed and approved a number of suggestions proposed by executive organizations. The proposals included one by the Culture and Islamic Guidance Ministry on regulations for issuing permits for the opening, dissolving and supervising over the activities of news agencies, representative offices of foreign mass media, as well as issuing permits for the activities of local and foreign reporters.

Solution to Disputes Sought

NC0708212089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 2 Aug 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] A senior official of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday said that he hoped that all "differences and disputes and even claims and counter claims between Iran and India will be sorted out during the current talks of the two countries' officials."

Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs Dr Mehdi Navab talking to the TEHRAN TIMES said, "We have talked to the Indian officials and hope that problems and issues concerning Kudremuch project will be solved."

Dr Navab declined to go into details. He was referring to the Irano-Indian Kudremukh Project for which the two countries signed an agreement before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

According to the agreement the iron ore from Kudremukh, Karnatak State, will be exported to Iran for use in the Ahvaz Steel Mill. For that Iran had already paid a $250 million loan to India but the plan could not be implemented for one reason or another.

Iran and India were due to hold their Joint Ministerial Commission meeting for bilateral economic and commercial cooperation. But it was postponed for several reasons. First the Indian and Iranian foreign ministers remained busy and could not spare time for the meeting. The foreign ministers of the two countries head the joint commission.

It is believed that the two countries want to sort out the issue of Kudremukh first, which is important for both.

The Indian delegation headed by Finance Secretary G.K. Arora arrived here Monday evening at the invitation of Dr Navab and started talks on the Kudremuch issue.

The recent developments indicate that New Delhi and Tehran, after a short period of chilly relations are now making up.

On the sad demise of Imam Khomeyni Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Administration declared a three-day mourning period. Vice President Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma in his recent meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to New Delhi Ebrahim Rahimpur said that the All India Radio and the Doordarshan (Indian television network) completely stopped musical and entertainment programs in order to pay tribute to the Imam.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Narasimha Rao arrived here on June 4 to attend the burial ceremonies for the Imam. Another high-powered Indian delegation arrived in Iran to attend the 40th day ceremonies on July 13.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last month addressing a Congress parliamentary meeting spoke highly about the Imam. Rajiv said, "Ayatollah Ruhollah (Imam) Khomeyni was a great revolutionary personality who introduced a new sense of values in Iran while rejecting Western imperialism."

Rajiv was addressing his party members of Parliament after visiting Paris, Moscow and Islamabad.

Giving details on his talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Rajiv said, "The Soviet leader told him in detail about the Soviet Union's efforts to improve relations with Iran."

Rajiv quoting Gorbachev said, "Moscow attaches great importance to its ties with Tehran.

Minister Lavasani Interviewed on Iraqi Relations

LD3007133989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Interview with Muhammad Lavasani, deputy foreign minister for international affairs by unidentified correrespondentified, from the "Sacred Defense Program"—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] A year has passed since the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] acceptance of Resolution 598. Would you please tell us what the IRI and the Iraqi regime's positions have been, in the wake of the establishment of the cease-fire, and what is the extent of the protagonists' adherence to the international commitments?

[Lavasani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In connection with the question which you have asked me, I would like to give elaborate and comprehensive details to the listeners which I hope will be useful. [passage omitted]

A year has passed since the cease-fire and I deem it necessary to itemize the developments of that year: First, in the interval between our acceptance of the resolution and the establishment of the cease-fire, our country's minister of foreign affairs held nine separate meetings with the UN secretary general while his Iraqi counterpart evaded any kind of negotiation.

Second, Iraq set a precondition for accepting the cease-fire, which was the demand for direct negotiations. When Iran refused to accept preconditions, Iraq was forced to omit the precondition.

Third, following the establishment of the cease-fire, Iraq attempted to defer the implementation of the first article of the resolution, on the compulsory withdrawal [of forces behind internationally recognized boundaries], through setting other conditions such as the issue of the dredging of the Arvand River and freedom of navigation. The implementation has, unfortunately, been delayed until the present.

Fourth, Iraq, who initiated the imposed war 9 years ago, had a variety of aims, such as gaining sovereignty over the whole of the Arvand River. After 8 years of war they had achieved none of their expansionist aims. Now, it seeks to gain what it did not attain through the war—which created havoc in its own country and on Iranian soil—at the negotiating table.

Fifth, Iraq in the course of the past year has resorted to rhetoric, various ploys and tricks, and also [word indistinct] of others for the Arvand River issue, with no success. Undoubtedly, it will never succeed since the IRI's will and resolve to defend its entire borders was clearly shown in the 8 years of war. In respect to the 1975 accord and the border issues, some points call for great attention. First, the 1975 accord remains valid since border agreements can not be abolished unilaterally. Second, the two countries' borders—on land and at sea—are distinct, and the thalweg line is the common border in the Arvand River. Third, the dredging of the Arvand River should be carried out as stipulated in the accord—under the supervision of an Iran-Iraq joint cooperation office and according to the very rules which governed in the past. Fourth, this issue can only be implemented after the withdrawal from Iranian soil still occupied by Iraqi forces and based on the rules clearly stated in the 1975 accord.

Without adherence to those rules, or outside its limit, dredging will not be permitted. Why? Because Iraq insists that dredging should begin before the withdrawal and within the framework of the cease-fire. Hence, I repeat, the issue of dredging can only be implemented according to the rules and in its own time—and not before that time.

Sixth, we will strongly resist Iraq's expansionist aims, whether toward our borders, or our neighbors' borders, since Iraq has border problems with some other neighboring countries. It is possible that they may stretch their imagination toward occupying other countries' territory. Our policy is to safeguard national borders on the basis of existing rules.

Seventh, Iraq wanted to exploit the POW weapon and the related humanitarian issue, so as to corrupt the integrity of the resolution through changing the order of its articles and rendering it void of any credibility. Our people are aware of our rationale in giving priority to implementing the first article. If we do not insist on the implementation of the first article, which is that of the withdrawal, not only will the resolution be destroyed, but the withdrawal will not take place and, God forbid, the exchange of POW's may not take place.

[Correspondent] Would you please tell us of the reactions shown by international organizations to the Iraqi regime's stalling tactics?

[Lavasani] Regarding the international communities, I can specifically name the nonaligned—the presidency of the nonaligned for the past 3 years has been the responsibility of Zimbabwe, and Mr Mugabe has a correct understanding of our regional issues. During the recent foreign ministerial session in Harare, I had the chance to hold a 90-minute meeting with Mr Mugabe, and among the main issues discussed was that of the war and the delay in implementing the resolution. He correctly understood this issue, and I discussed points in which the nonaligned could play an active role. [passage omitted]

Nigerian Leader Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0408210689 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Lagos, Aug. 4, IRNA—President Ibrahim Babangida sent a congratulatory message to the new Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as the country's fourth president.

Expressing delight on democracy in Iran, President Babangida noted the cordial and friendly relations between Nigeria and Iran and wished the new president a peaceful and successful tenure.

Also, the various Muslim communities of Nigeria have shown delight over the election. They praised the Iranian authorities for handling their political affairs with maturity since the demise of the late Imam Khomeyni.

In lectures and seminars marking the beginning of a new Islamic year based on the al-Hejira calendar, Muslim leaders urged Iran to surge ahead with exemplary Islamic leadership without minding the West, which was bent on bringing Muslims under its feet.

They prayed for the Iranian leadership as well as the soul of Imam Khomeyni and urged the rest of the Muslim world to cooperate with Iran in bringing back the glory of Islam.

Council of Guardians Greets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0608205389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1300 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Text] The Council of Guardians, in a statement, greeted the election of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The statement stressed: The election of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president with a decisive majority by the nation is the embodiment of the nation and their appreciation of the country's sincere officials.

The Council of Guardians has also expressed its hope that from now on the existing problems of the country will be solved one by one under the shadow of brilliant Islamic teachings.

Commentary Assesses Presidential Elections

NC3107103289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0453 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Central News Unit's research group commentary]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The outcome of the presidential elections, which gave the nation's strong and decisive vote to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the new president, manifests the people's trust in the high-ranking officials of the revolution and the concordance between the people and the officials in continuing the path of the imam.

Also, the extensive and decisive support by the Muslim Iranian nation for the amendments in the Constitution opens the way for a change in the administration of the country's affairs. Officials should use the new Constitution as their basis and begin their efforts to fulfill the richness of this Constitution in the various political, social, and economic fields.

We can better understand the significance behind the extensive presence of our nation's people in the most important political and social decisions of the revolution when we know that world counterrevolution invested a great deal in a bid to undermine these elections in view of the heart-rending loss of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. In their propaganda, The Islamic revolution's enemies said that after the Imam, the people would not be very keen on participating in their political and social affairs.

Even though the extensive presence of the people during the imam's funeral proved the baselessness of such analyses, the epic of the people's presence in the elections and referendum on Friday—which was the first test for the ummah after the imam—nevertheless undoubtedly foiled, once and for all, the delirious dreams of the Islamic revolution's enemies.

With their presence in this historic test, our country's Muslim and committed people not only displayed their political and social maturity in participating in determining their destiny, but they went even further and reiterated to the world their support for the principles and ideals of the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and their defense of the holy system of the Islamic Republic.

The high turnout at the elections received extensive coverage abroad, and political and news circles described the elections and its outcome as yet another example of the stability and strength of the popular bases of the revolution and a guarantee that the Islamic Republic will continue to live in the future.

Despite the confessions by foreign analysts of the grandeur of the Islamic revolution and the system which merged from it—something which was manifested in the elections—it seems that world counterrevolution has now pushed its propaganda in a new direction, and it is trying to say that in the new era, changes will take place in the policy of the Islamic republic in the domestic and especially in the foreign fields. Even though political observers believe that the presidential elections and the referendum on constitutional amendments will be the start of a new era in the history of the Islamic revolution, it is nevertheless clear that the path of the country and of its new officials after Imam Khomeyni was the same as that delineated when the founder of the Islamic Republic was living.

The election of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Muslim and committed people of our country, in view of the fact that he was among the close friends and followers of the imam, actually manifests the people's decisive support for the continuation of Imam Khomeyni's line and their efforts to fulfill the lofty ideals and to continue within the framework of the ideas of that great man of history; it is clear that there cannot be the slightest doubt in this.

Nevertheless, in view of the new conditions that our country is facing after the termination of the war and after putting the other difficulties of the first decade of the Islamic Revolution behind it, the reconstruction of the country and the solution of economic problems are among the most significant problems faced by the new president and his future cabinet. In view of the increased authority of the president, as foreseen in the amendment to the Constitution, our country is expected to begin a new phase of all aspects of development and growth.

However, we should not forget the basic point that undoubtedly the new era of the Islamic Republic under the aegis of the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and of the new president can only be formed within the framework of the path charted by his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and that the firm principles and values of the revolution will continue to be safeguarded.

Musavi Inaugurates Radioisotope Center

LD2707144189 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—With the inauguration of a new section of the radioisotope centre of Atomic Research Centre at the Atomic Energy Organization Thursday, Iran has taken a step forward toward self-sufficiency in this vital field.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi inaugurated the centre, which will meet the country's radioisotope requirements both in industrial and medical fields, saving large amounts in foreign exchange.

The prime minister toured various sections of the center and was briefed by head of the organisation Reza Amrollahi.

Amrollahi said the centre used to produce three and half curie of radiomedicine, 2.5 of which was delivered to clinics and hospitals, but with the operation of the new section, he added, the amount delivered will be boosted to seven curie.

The new section will help save the country one million dlrs [dollars] every year, he said.

Later, the premier presented honourary plaques to Dr. Mahmud Hesabi and Dr. 'Abbas Olia'i, pioneers of physics in Iran, for their great contribution to the physics and atomic industry in the country.

Television External Services Described

PM2707155589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Jul 89 pp 5, 21

[Report on activities and plans of Iranian Television's External Services]

[Text] The activities of the world's mass media increased with the news of the imam's death. For years, they had been waiting for this moment, carefully planning their programs. With all their experience and information in the field of sophisticated and modern world propaganda, they nevertheless were affected by the greatness of the event. They completely panicked.

One of the West's big news agencies, before receiving any news from Tehran, reported chaos and turmoil in four of our largest towns. Some radios and other mass media outlets who are against the revolution quoted the nearly

11 million people at the funeral as a few hundred thousand people. The analysts who based their predictions on wrong information concerning the internal situation in the country after the death of the imam saw the future of the Islamic Republic after the imam as dark and uncertain.

There was a great scurry to get interviews with those throughout the world who are against the Islamic revolution. The views of the counterrevolutionaries who had been cultivated by imperialist propaganda machines for just such a day filled several cassette tapes for many days.

It was under these circumstances that the External Services of the Vision of the Islamic Republic began to expose the truth in this chaotic propaganda war after the imam's death. It opened the watchful eyes of the world's truth seekers to the depth of hostility of the revolution's enemies. It also proved the depth of the Islamic revolution's roots among the masses.

The television's external services was started some time after the start of the imposed war, with the aim of showing the victories and achievements of the Islamic forces in various battles as well as providing a source of visual contact for Iraqi POW's and their relatives. Its other goal was to pressure the Iraqi's through propaganda with its Arabic programs. It presently has programs in Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkman.

The brain behind the external services is the backup and preparation unit which prepares the programs in Persian. These then are translated into various languages. Also active in the external services is a coordination unit for the provinces. Its job is to coordinate from the centers of the provinces with the central office.

Apart from these sections, the external services has special importance when it comes to technical areas. It has the most comprehensive equipment in this field. Of course, external services officials feel that since the primary audience for the programs are the Muslims of the world, followed by peoples of the Third World and then the rest of the world, the present facilities are not quite adequate.

After an introduction by Dr Shahidi, deputy chief of the external services, who gave a general outline of the service's activities, Farid Soleymani, general manager of the television's external services, described the network's actions following the imam's death; external services' teams were ready from the time the imam's death was announced. Our strongest team, comprising a cameraman, soundman, reporter and translator, first went to Jamaran [location of Khomeyni's house in northern Tehran] and then to the prayer ground. Up until the 7th day after the imam's death, our Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkman reporters prepared minute by minute reports and pictures of the events. Some of those pictures are unique. The goal was to use the most effective equipment. In doing so, aerial photography was used. In general, from the day of the imam's death, there was special programing, including lunchtime and evening programs.

The television's external services broadcast some 22 hours of programs a day during the days following the imam's death. This included 14 hours of Arabic, 4 hours of Kurdish, and 4 hours of Turkman programs.

The main focus of the programs during the first few hours was the obvious great emotion in Tehran. After that, the programs were more organized and planned. Some 112 minutes of interviews with the international guests attending the funeral showed the imam's role as an international leader. Also a film lasting some 25 to 30 minutes taken by satellite showed mourning ceremonies in India, Pakistan, and Lebanon. There were speeches by foreign 'ulema living in Iran, which lasted 120 minutes, and dramatic presentations, three in Arabic, three in Kurdish, and three in Turkman. This was unique in the history of external television. We also devoted some 70 minutes to coverage of the catastrophe of the imam's death in the provinces.

In the Kurdish and Turkman programs, a special political calendar on the imam's life, the picture planning for which would normally have taken a week, was done in 48 hours. A 210-minute interview with Kurdish members of the Majlis is being shown in parts. During the interviews, the deputies relate special and interesting events from the mourning ceremonies held in Kordestan for the Imam's death. We also had reports on the burial, Friday prayers, and various groups swearing their allegiance to Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The preparations for the pictures to go along with the imam's will were done quickly. The will has been translated into Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkman. We started broadcasting the will from the 7th day after the imam's death. A special program was done that included pictures of the imam from the time that he was taken ill until his death, and the 7th day ceremonies were done in two separate 45-minute segments.

Dr Shahidi also gave some details on the activities of the External Services following the imam's death: We started planning for some of the programs during the last moments before the imam's death and we were preparing for all aspects of this event. We had to prepare for our friends and enemies. For our friends because they were heartbroken and we felt it our duty to make them feel as if they were taking part in the ceremonies in Iran from a distance. For our enemies, it was to prove the stability of the Islamic Republic. From the first night, we saw our mission. Despite the fact that members of the Central News Unit were sent out for reports, we mobilized various groups from the radio and television for this task. We had people preparing films and reports up until the 7th night from Jamaran, the prayer ground, and the Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery.

It was a big job. Preparing all the films and reports in Persian first and then translating them presented special problems. The material had to be translated especially carefully to put across the feelings and emotions.

Majid Unesiyan, backup manager at the television's External Services, commented: We cut our normal programs in the first week and put on special programs. We had to look at it from two angles. One was the world reaction and its consequences, the reaction of the Islamic world to the news. The other was to diffuse the Western plots wanting to portray the country in a state of turmoil. We had to show the world that, after this huge and shattering event, the country experienced not one single unexpected event.

At the same time as all this, we had to prepare reports on the country's new leader. The first week was spent entirely on this.

From the 7th day, we dedicated programs to the international dimension of the event, such issues as taking a new look at the revolution, analyzing the imam's views, for which the source was his will and, based on that, his other speeches. For example, on the issue of Palestine, we brought up points from the will and some of the speeches made from 1963. This proved the imam's views had not changed from 1963 until his death. There were also other aspects of the imam's life, his character, family life, and so forth. There was the splitting of the will into various subject matters, analysing each piece, with regard to what he had said on the subjects before.

Since most of the propaganda against our revolution comes from Western countries, the pressure against our revolution is greatest in the West. The work of the External Services becomes more urgent. Preparing programs such as those that were done after the imam's death in Arabic, Kurdish, and Turkman in European languages such as English, French, German, and so on could place many of the propaganda weapons currently in the hands of the revolution's enemies in the hands of the Islamic Republic.

In this regard, Dr Shahidi, stressed that his section is now completely prepared to do these programs. If equipment problems are solved, it could be done easily. It then would be possible to engage in activity on behalf of the Islamic Republic in this wide area. In any case, the External Services of the Vision of the Islamic Republic cannot remain without European languages.

Qazvin Glass Factory Furnace Becomes Operational

NC0108104889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Recorded telephone report by correspondent Mir-Baha from Qazvin]

[Text] The second furnace of the Qazvin glass factory, which has a nominal annual output of 19,000 tonnes of glass, became operational during a ceremony. As this furnace resumes operation after basic changes in its construction have taken place, its output is expected to increase to 30,000 tonnes a year.

With the recent repairs to the second furnace of the Qazvin glass factory, which was carried out in 51 days by experts and workers of this plant and without the use of foreign experts, about $2.5 million in foreign exchange was saved.

It should be pointed out that the third furnace of this plant was repaired and reconstructed and became operational in late May. Currently, by using its furnaces, the plant is manufacturing 75 percent of the total quantity of the country's construction glass requirements.

The managing director of the plant stated in an interview that various research, such as on manufacturing optical and ceramic glass by this plant are under way and that it is hoped that these projects will also be implemented with the efforts of the Qazvin glass plant.

Official on Moves Against Narcotics Smugglers

LD0708124689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Report on an interview with Mohktar Kalantari, deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, with unidentified newspaper correspondents; date, place not given]

[Text] The sum of 2 billion rials has been allocated for looking after addicts in work camps. According to an IRNA report from Kerman, Mr Mokhtar Kalantari, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees, announced the fact and said: For the purpose of looking after addicts in 24 of the country's provinces, work camps have been planned. Governors, who are in charge of the provinces' coordination councils, will provide the necessary cooperation for establishing the work camps.

He added: At the national level, 55,000 addicts will be kept in work camps. On the subject of confronting drug smuggling at source, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees said: Currently, operations are underway on the country's eastern borders to build roads and observation positions. Committee and Gendermerie forces are stationed in those regions. In view of the fact that the distance between observation positions is 10 to 20 km, there is a need to establish posts between the observation positions and to build ditches or to lay barbed wire or mines in some border regions so that security forces can strictly control the borders.

He added: At the moment, a temporary combat plan is being implemented in the Sistan va Baluchestan region, and a large number of passes, which, after the border, are considered to be the entry points for narcotics, have been blocked by the deployment of committee forces. A major obstacle has been created in the path of narcotics convoys.

Mr Mokhatar Kalantari added: The cordoning off of part of the desert to the [name indistinct] mountains and the heights in the Bam region has been implemented and plans have been made for the Abu Zar tactical base to establish observation positions in the region north of Bam.

About the destruction of lare narcotics smuggling gangs he said: On the basis of available statistics, 60 narcotics gangs are active in the distribution of narcotics in the east of the country and the nature of all those gangs—from the point of view of organization, resources, and type of activity—has been identified by the committee.

41 Hanged for Drug Offenses, Prostitution

LD0508100189 Tehran IRNA in English 0956 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 5, IRNA—A group of 41 notorious drug smugglers and brothel organizers were put to death Friday and Saturday in Tehran and the northeastern provincial capital of Mashhad.

They included 21 hanged in Tehran's Qasr prison, among them 11 women, and three in a street in front of the public in southern Tehran Friday.

They were involved for years in drug trafficking and organized prostitution, said a statement issued by the Islamic Revolution's Court. One had confessed to selling of 54 kg heroin in the course of several years.

In Mashhad, capital of Khorasan Province, 17 were hanged in public on Saturday for drug smuggling.

Anti-Drug Trafficking Campaign Progress Noted

LD0508184189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] In the course of the 10-day implementation of the second phase of the val-adiyat [campaign against drug traffickers] project, from 1 Mordad [23 July] of the current year, 13,400 drug addicts, who are considered culprits, have been arrested in the country's provinces by the Islamic Revolution Committee Guards in accordance with the anti-narcotics campaign.

In announcing the above news in a new conference the director-general of the Islamic Revolution Committee in charge of the anti-narcotics campaign said. That with the implementation of the second phase of the val-adiyat project, the extent of the distribution, trafficking, and the procurement of narcotics, has reached its lowest level. He also remarked that 2,540 of those arrested in the course of the 6 months of the implementation of the first phase of the val-adiyat project, have been able to give up their addiction. Having stated that the number of those drug addicts giving up drugs has been escalating, he added that the greatest figures of those who have given up drugs, have been registered in the provinces of Chahar-Mahall va Bakhtiari, Markazi, Lorestan, Fars, Azarbayjan-e Gharbi, [placename indistinct], Bovir Ahmadi va Kohkiluyeh, and the town of Qom.

Maldives

6 Sentenced to Death for Nov 1988 Coup Attempt

BK0708003689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1748 GMT 6 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 6 (AFP)—Six Sri Lankan Tamils were sentenced to death Sunday [6 August] by the high court of Maldives, which found them guilty of last year's attempt to oust President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, reports from the Indian Ocean atoll nation said.

Asian diplomats in the Maldives capital Male contacted by telephone said the sentences were read out in open court late Sunday.

Eight other Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries were ordered to be banished to an uninhabited desert island for life.

It was not immediately clear when the sentences would be carried out. The high court said it will announce within a week the verdicts against the 54 other suspects who took part in the November 3, 1988, armed invasion of Male.

The remaining suspects include a few Maldivians led by businessman Abdullah Lutfi, who was accused of employing a former Sri Lankan Tamil militant separatist group, the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), to carry out the invasion.

The court was told that former PLOTE men set sail in boats from Sri Lanka's south west coast. PLOTE has admitted that some of its members were involved in the incident.

The attack on the one-mile (1.6-kilometer) long capital island was put down with President Gayoom receiving military aid from neighbouring India, which still maintains about 500 soldiers to guard vulnerable islands in the atoll nation of some 1,191 coral islands, of which 202 are inhabited.

The international airport at Hulule Island is guarded by Indian paratroopers who were first deployed to crush the coup attempt. Some 20 people, mostly Maldivians, died during the fighting.

The coup trials of the 68 suspects continued for six months and created a sensation in the tourist paradise Islamic republic of 200,000 people.

Diplomats said the death sentence in Male is normally carried out in front of a firing squad, but capital punishment has not been carried out since 1951.

The condemned prisioners have no right to appeal, but President Gayoom can exercise his executive powers to pardon them.

Diplomats said Mr. Gayoom may commute the death sentences passed Sunday, although there was no immediate reaction from him. [passage omitted]

Nepal

Article Claims India Gained More From Trade Deals

BK0608113989 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 25 Jul 89 p 4

[Article by K.C. Bhola Entitled "India's Doing"]

[Text] India's claim that it had given special favour to Nepal in matters of trade and transit holds no water because of the simple fact, which any layman can comprehend, that of the total trade between Nepal and India over 66 per cent was gobbled up by India whereas a meagre third landed up in Nepal's share—a whopping 3-billion rupee trade deficit for Nepal. This itself is sufficient to show that Nepal had been a victim in its trade with India.

Prior to March 23, countless Indian goods had been enjoying concessional customs facility in Nepal while goods imported from overseas were denied this facility.

Regarding Nepalese exports to India, the conditions set by the importer was just to discourage them contrary to the principle of action provided in the 1978 treaties of trade and transit.

According to the trade treaty the exports to India had to contain at least eighty per cent raw material of Nepalese or Indian origin. But, in fact, India in its own harrassing technique devised such time consuming procedures for approval for exports that barring a few products like jute, biscuits, oil and noodles, hardly anything could be exported to India.

This shows that though the treaty spoke of parity of trade relations between Nepal and India, in reality the scales were tipped in India's favour. So, it was not Indian products that were discriminated against but Nepalese exports.

The customs duties and other related tariffs imposed on Indian goods entering Nepal were designed in such a manner, prior to March 23, that they received special privileges.

The MFN [most favored nation] treatment has come in, most fortunately, to replace the "special" relations in the trade sector. Now, Indian goods are free to compete on the same footing as other overseas goods.

It's up to the buyers to buy what he wants and from where he wants. No one has the right to dictate anyone as to the type and colour of the tie that one is to wear.

India who first uttered the need to go into MFN basis now has no right to go back on its words. The Nepalese trade scenario has now gone in for a much needed and vital change by bringing in par treatment of Indian with overseas goods entering Nepal.

For long Nepalese industries had been unduly subjected to strenuous competition from spurious Indian goods entering Nepal in the guise of having passed stringent quality tests. This not only resulted in loss of revenue to the government but also held the Nepalese consumers to ransom. Nepal had, in a sense, become a guinea pig for the junk products from India.

With the introduction of the new regime of export and import tariffs, much leeway has been given to the national industries to flourish and meet the ever-increasing demands of the quality-conscious consumers in the country.

The present state of affairs in the relations between Nepal and India is all India's doing. To give a political twist to an otherwise plain issue of trade and transit is a thing only one with superpower phobia can resort to.

When the leaders at the helm in the southern neighbouring country are afflicted with megalomania then woe betide them. History is evidence of the fact that those who break treaties are the worst affected—economically and psychologically.

Cash Incentives To Diversify Exports Announced

BK0408142489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 4 Aug 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu Aug 4 (AFP)—Nepal, facing a growing trade deficit and the need to diversify markets, has announced cash incentives up to 35 percent for the export of goods beyond India, a senior trade official said here Friday.

The Ministry of Commerce official said the cash incentives would be applied on a trial basis to 11 items for a period ending next January 13.

The incentives would range between 10 percent and 35 percent, with the highest amount going for the export of jute hessian (burlap).

Cash incentives were also set for various forms of leather and leather goods, resin and turpentine, lentils, mustard oil, cardamon, ghee (purified butter) and dry ginger.

India has levied customs duties as high as 150 percent on these items, as well as on sweets, noodles, plastic products and other basic industrial goods.

Before March 23, most of these goods were exported to India with nominal customs duties and no cash incentives were given, the official said.

But on that date, trade and transit pacts between India and Nepal expired. Negotiations between the two countries have been at an impasse on the question of whether trade and transit should be treated singly or jointly.

The duties have essentially stopped Nepalese exports to India save for rice, bran, and mustard cakes for animal feed, the official said.

New Delhi has shut 19 of its 21 border routes into the landlocked Himalayan kingdom, causing economic dislocation and acute shortages of basic goods.

During the 1987-1988 fiscal year, Nepal's exports to India totaled 1.56 billion rupees (57.01 million dollars), while imports ran at 4.72 billion rupees (171.5 million), the official said.

During the same period, exports to non-Indian overseas markets totaled 2.6 billion rupees (94.9 million), while imports were 9.23 billion rupees (335.72 million dollars).

A Finance Ministry official said that total imports during the first three quarters of the current fiscal year—prior to India's trade blockade—were 12.5 billion rupees (455.04 million dollars), for a trade deficit to date of 9 billion rupees (327.27 million dollars).

The Nepalese Public Exchequer anticipates a final trade deficit of some 10.6 billion (385.55 million), compared to last year's deficit of 9.79 billion rupees (356.13 million dollars).

Nepal's total exports for fiscal 1988-1989 were 4.02 billion rupees (145.5 million dollars) despite the drastic drop in shipments to India, although the official said that Nepal's oversea exports were down "because of India's stringent trade policy," particularly the closing of border points.

"Currently, India has opened Jobgani, 380 kilometers (237.5 miles) to the southeast and Raxaul, 220 kilometers (137 miles) south of Kathmandu, but (is) causing great harassments and inconvenience" to Nepalese traders, he said.

India's trade policy over the last quarter has caused imports from India alone to drop one billion rupees (36.36 million dollars), he said.

Trade with non-Indian overseas partners has also declined because of the transit problems both at the Indian port of Calcutta and at the two open border passages.

Nepal has revised tariff rates on Indian imports and added duties of 10 percent to 65 percent on over 10,000 Indian imports, the finance official said.

At the same time, it has abolished duties of the same amounts that had been imposed on overseas imports.

"This tariff revision has been made to make the Indian imports equally effective (competitive) for all countries, according to the principle of most favoured nation, as per India's wishes," the finance official said.

The official said that because New Delhi's tariff policies had meant that Nepalese goods could not be exported to India, the cash incentive policy was being introduced so that exports "could be diverted to overseas markets beyond India and narrow the trade deficit in the current fiscal year."

Pakistan

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Interviewed

BK2307103489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by M.K. Akber; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Akber] Let us begin with the most recent development in India-Pakistan relations. How do you assess the visit of our prime minister, which, as you know, was the first bilateral [visit] in almost 3 decades?

[Bhutto] We had a mini-bilateral in December [during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in Islamabad]. But this was the first opportunity to have an exchange of views on a wide variety of issues and I think that some people have all (?sorts) of expectations of major changes between India and Pakistan. But Prime Minister Gandhi and I feel that the problems are quite complex and complicated and had grown over a period, a long period, and that it is important to move gradually toward a lowering of tensions. His visit provided us an opportunity to review the progress made by our defense, foreign, water and power, and home ministers earlier on and they say that exchanges at the high level are necessary every now and then to give a fresh impetus to what our aides are doing in the meantime.

[Akber] What you say is that reality has caught up with the optimism of December?

[Bhutto] I think expectations were extremely high in December, but if by reality one means intractability, then I think that is not correct. There has been some movement during these talks, and there have been movements even at the talks that were held last month between our aides, and the Army authorities will be be meeting within (?days) to discuss the issue of Siachen and how to resolve it. Siachen, movement on it, is a very important issue.

[Akber] That, perhaps, is the most intractable of all the issues.

[Bhutto] Well, (?certainly) intractable, but I think with Siachen a flash point will be removed.

[Akber] What [words indistinct] in Siachen?

[Bhutto] On Siachen, we feel that if both countries redeploy in the spirit of the Simla agreement and then sit down to negotiate what the line of control is, then we can get the removal of the flash point.

[Akber] But there is nothing like the 1972 line in Siachen.

[Bhutto] Not the 1972 line, the positions of deployment. The forces are now deployed on the glacier itself, and it holds continuous prospects of renewed clash and [words indistinct]. Both sides agree that if their troops were redeployed, give up positions in the spirit of the Simla agreement, then it would reduce the threat of conflict and we would return to certain degree of normalcy. Then we could sit down and decide where the line of control is, because India thinks that line is one way, Pakistan claims it means another. These negotiations are going to be drawn out, so that [words indistinct] this progress be staggered by drawn-out negotiations, we felt it might be better to let the (?peace) process continue without prejudice to negotiations.

[Akber] [Question indistinct]

[Bhutto] Both countries agreed to this. I think this was a genuine feeling on both sides (?related) to a very hostile climate and many men fell victim, not just to gunfire, but the weather itself.

[Akber] Now, government-to-government negotiations and processes have been going on, but what have you two actually decided to help the people-to-people relationship develop between the two countries?

[Bhutto] Well, we want to [words indistinct] on the exchanges between the two countries, but again one needs some kind of a defusion of tension to enable that to take place. You have been to Pakistan yourself recently, and you can see that while there is a sincere hope amongst many that the relations between the two countries improve, there is also a lot of scepticism and suspicion. When [word indistinct] went to your country, they found the same thing.

[Akber] The important question seems to be whether there is scepticism within your government or within the power structure?

[Bhutto] I do not think there is any scepticism within the government or the power structure. It is felt that efforts must be made to improve peace and stability in the subcontinent and in the region. Yes, there are concerns and I have expressed this to the prime minister—concerns about the blockade of Nepal, concerns about the recent problems in Sri Lanka, and concerns of what repercussions they could have subsequently on Pakistan. Now, it is good that we talk about these concerns. Communication and dialogue are extremely necessary to create a climate for solution.

[Akber] I think, perhaps, the prime minister, I hope he had convinced you that we do not have a blockade on Nepal.

[Bhutto] The prime minister did say that they are talking to Nepal and they are [word indistinct] and they are prepared to give the most favored nation status to Nepal. He did mention this to us. We are also in touch with Nepal. I know this is a bilateral problem, but if anything we could do in this connection to resolve it, we would be happy to do so.

[Akber] Is there a difference of opinion between you and the president on relationship with India?

[Bhutto] There is no difference. You see in a parliamentary structure, the president holds the ceremonial, the dignified part of the office and sovereignty rests in the parliament. So, really the president, the prime minister, and the government are all part of one power structure and you are familiar with the system that the president is always kept informed of the proceedings.

[Akber] Yes, but I said this because there is a minor controversy, at least, over raising the issue of the term that was used by the president, which is hegemony, Indian hegemony in the subcontinent.

[Bhutto] I still have not been sent any such remark by the Foreign Office. Although, I asked the foreign minister about it at a press conference. He has not seen the remarks either [words indistinct]. I think as I mentioned there are concerns arising about what role India wishes to play in the subcontinent and how this could affect Pakistan, but at the same time we in Pakistan hope that the process of normalization will create conditions of a different kind.

[Akber] How would you view our current policy in Sri Lanka?

[Bhutto] Well, the Sri Lankan situation is of concern to us because Sri Lanka is also a member of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries and Pakistan is currently the chairperson of SAARC. The Sri Lankans refused to attend the last SAARC conference and they are considering pulling out of SAARC altogether over the issue of the Indian troops being stationed there. So, we have discussed with them, the prime minister—indeed with delegation (?at large)—so that some sort of a solution or some sort of way could be found to keep SAARC because it provides a valuable forum for leaders to meet personally and to meet frequently and to be able to speak about what is bothering them, what is bothering the government, about all the answers they [words indistinct]. So, we are concerned about it in that way. But also, there are concerns amongst our people, amongst the government about why the Indians are not leaving when the Sri Lankans have asked them to do so. Without going into the merits of the [word indistinct] effect, because Indian Government claims that, well, there will be a bloodshed, people will die, but in our part of the world if a country [words indistinct], if the president of a country requests them to go, then whether it is good or bad for that country, perhaps, they should go.

[Akber] [Words indistinct] of 60 million Tamils on our side and there is a natural sentimental effect, it is a [word indistinct] of this common sentiment that persuaded very wise man called President Jayewardene to involve us in the solution to the Lanka problem. (?We come to), how much can we say that domestic pressure affects you when you come to terms, or when try and come to terms with India?

[Bhutto] I see domestic pressure affects both countries to some degree. But I do not think domestic pressure can overcome what are the defined goals and national interests as pursued by a government. Certainly, I do not intend to let my opposition run the foreign policy.

[Akber] You used a very good term, you will be hostess to parties in interest.

[Bhutto] That's right. We do believe that normalization is a worthy goal to be pursued and the fact that it is difficult should not deter us. And we have great hopes that eventually our two countries can live in peace. And not only live in peace but make a better society for each of our people.

[Akber] But I can tell you one of our domestic concerns, which is, that despite your assurances, we still believe that arms are still going into Punjab and to terrorists and more so, to Kashmir. There is also a report—I do not know how credible it is, nobody knows—that President Zia had a "Liberate Kashmir" plan in operation.

[Bhutto] I must tell you that the question of arms to Kashmir was never [words indistinct] in my mind. This is something totally [words indistinct] The question on the Sikh issue was mentioned and many contacts at different levels were made on this issue. We certainly don't want to meddle in India's internal affairs and we are not going to permit it from our own borders. And we are equally sure that India would not permit any interference within our borders. In fact, the Sikhs are complaining loud and clear that Pakistan is not being cooperative any more. So we mentioned this to your government that we face a problem of illegal immigration into our country and there are also apprehensions in our people's minds that some of these are trained terrorists. So perhaps the best thing is that proper ground rules can be worked out to control the kind of migration—illegal—whether it is the Sikhs, whether it is on our side of the border so that both of our countries can do the [words indistinct] made progress in terms of ground, border rules and will help them continuing to do so.

As far as the question of Kashmir is concerned, this has been disputed much on the side of India. The disputed part of Kashmir is disputed by the Muslims since 1947. The Kashmiris are articulate, they are educated, they [words indistinct]. And the Kashmir issue has led to three conflicts between India and Pakistan, too. So I think one can't say that it is born out of the weapons sent by Pakistan. It is really born out of a feeling by Kashmiris, whether they live in Azad Kashmir, whether they live in parts of Karachi, or Punjab, whether they live in England or Canada, about their own rights. We have a position on Kashmir that we don't want to settle this in any other framework than that provided by the Simla agreement. And we keep stressing the Simla agreement because it is the one which has given our subcontinent the most durable peace for 17 years and that's why it is an agreement worth preserving.

[Akber] Madam, your mother is Kashmiri, full Kashmiri.

[Bhutto] Are you Kashmiri?

[Akber] My mother is, yes, and some Sikh, but I am absolutely certain that what you said about some secessionist elements being unhappy with you. But, are you so sure that they are still unhappy with Mr Nawaz Sharif?

[Bhutto] Well, I mean, there are always different views in a country and you have had democracy for a long time so you must know that dissent is as old as civilization and will continue to be so. Although, I think that my opponents are more keen to use the Sikhs against me than they are to use them against India at this time. [laughter]

[Akber] You [words indistinct] and I personally would agree very much with that. But one question I always wanted to ask your father and Mr Rajiv Gandhi's mother—tragically both martyred now—how did he react when he came back after Simla and the domestic conservative elements began to put pressure on him for having, as they say—quote, unquote—sold out to India?

[Bhutto] Well, I remember that the Simla report that Mrs Gandhi had reviewed about the [words indistinct] of approach and they said they were unable to see the issues in the historic perspective but so could grasp at this present moment, which must not be lost, and he said that she proved in every sense that she is Nehru's daughter in that particular moment. With sheer opportunities like these and small minds cannot offend [words indistinct] and he felt also that we did not get the Indian narrow considerations, but need a much larger quest for peace on which [words indistinct]. As far as our opponents are concerned, I remember even General Zia [words indistinct] that there were secret clauses in the Simla agreement. But, of course, as soon as the borders hotted up, he forgot about that and he suddenly started talking about the Simla agreement. So what happens today can tomorrow [words indistinct] agreements.

[Akber] Do you see and [words indistinct] and what Mr Junejo says [words indistinct].

[Bhutto] Perhaps, I think, I [words indistinct] many returns to what they adhere.

[Akber] Madam, what is it that has enabled you to come this distance with Mr Rajiv Gandhi and has prevented a similar situation developing when President Zia and Mr Junejo were in power? Is it a personal trust, I imagine?

[Bhutto] Well, we had never met before December. But, I think that it was the sign that democracy had returned to Pakistan, that there was a representative government. And whether it is one country or another, we have seen greater respect for Pakistan since the restoration of democratic rule. And perhaps because both of us had also been born into political families and being well aware of our countries' pasts that we could talk to each other.

[Akber] Madam, were you disappointed when the siege of Jalalabad failed?

[Bhutto] Jalalabad was... [changes thought] Everyone thought now the Russians have gone, the city must fall. But the reason that the mujahidin succeeded in getting the Russians out of Afghanistan was not for the cities. Remember, they kept telling that the cities [words indistinct] that it was a guerrilla warfare, local commandos intercepting supplies, sniping. That situation continues to this day.

In fact, there were some assessments which were made, but the basic assessment by our own security agencies and indeed, those of other countries—the need firstly for a quick collapse. I don't think parties were interested in imposing any embarassment to the Soviets who were withdrawing at that time through a quick collapse. It is a pity that a political settlement seems to depend so much on what the military situation on the ground will be because then that forces the mujahidin to no other course, whereas countries like Pakistan are anxious to promote a political settlement. I believe the Kabul administration is not very happy with Pakistan [laughter] to say the least, but we really feel that [words indistinct] of Pakistan.

We have got 3.5 million refugees and they are not going to go back unless there is a government which can give stability. And obviously, the present administration can only give civil war because it is not a broad-based one to incorporate the different segments of the Afghan population and it is not possible for us to accept a system which fans civil war. We have talked to the mujahidin. It is not possible for them to accept an administration which has been associated with occupation and atrocities. Now somebody like myself, I don't understand why because of this whole [word indistinct] so many people must die because if the resignation of the hardliners does lead and pave the way for a political settlement, then surely the dictates of one's own conscience, the dictates of suffering humanity, demands a settlement should be found.

[Akber] But would you rule out Mr Najibullah's involvement with these talks at all?

[Bhutto] You see, it is not me that has to talk to him. It is the mujahidin who have to talk to him. And nobody talks to him—neither King Zahir Shah, nor the Pakistan mujahidin, nor the Iran mujahidin, nor the prominent exiles, nor the prominent commanders. I am only concerned that if there is a government there which just plans civil war, what is going to happen to the 3.5 million refugees who are temporarily our responsibility? So, that is why we are keen to promote a political settlement. But it seems that a few individuals are insisting on clinging to power.

[Akber] A side question, did Mr Hamid Gul lose his job because of Afghanistan or because of India?

[Bhutto] Oh, I think that that had nothing to do with India and indeed, he was the head of an agency which coordinated closely with the Afghan resistance and gave us a political [word indistinct]. But it was normal transfer. Army officers when they are promoted to a different rank have different responsibilities, and when he was promoted by this government to lieutenant general, it was just a matter of time before he went to take on his professional duties associated with the promotion.

[Akber] Madam, I know you are very pressed for time and I think we have already over extended the hospitality, but a personal question to end with, and that is, how do you reconcile your role of a mother with your work as prime minister? Does Dilawar suffer...

[Bhutto, interrupting] I hope Dilawar doesn't suffer. I hope my work does not suffer either. I love being a mother, I love having a little son, and especially at that age. He is now 10 months old, and it is a very interesting age. I remember [words indistinct]. But I found that he is so sharp. Well, as my mother says: Every mother thinks her child is the best. I do miss him when I have to go on trips. But he is well adjusted and he is very good natured. And he is growing up fine.

[Akber] Will you give us one last promise that you will bring him when you come to India?

[Bhutto] Oh, I will try to do that. [laughter]

[Akber] Finally, when will you come to India?

[Bhutto] Well, I was hoping to be able to come in August in connection first with the SAARC job, and then staying on as part of an official trip. Now we don't know how the SAARC is going to pursue. So a lot depends on the present trip our foreign minister is taking to the different capitals. But, irrespective of that, I would like to come sometime this year.

[Akber] Soon?

[Bhutto] Soon.

[Akber] Thank you very much, Madam.

[Bhutto] Thank you so much.

Federal Minister Leaves on Official Visit to Iran

BK0508063089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The federal minister for food, agriculture, and cooperatives, Rao Sikandar Iqbal, left today on a 4-day official visit to Iran. He is accompanied by a two-member delegation. Rao Sikandar Iqbal will hold talks with his Iranian counterpart on measures to increase cooperation in the agriculture field.

Paper Welcomes Accord With Sri Lanka on IPKF

BK0308132389 Karachi DAWN in English 30 Jul 89 p 9

[Editorial: "IPKF: Good Sense Prevails"]

[Text] After weeks of acrimonious exchanges, good sense has prevailed in New Delhi and Colombo. The Indian and Sri Lankan governments have reached a preliminary understanding on the controversial peacekeeping for (IPKF) [Indian peacekeeping force]. India began withdrawing 3,000 to 4,000 of its troops from the island state on Saturday [29 July], the deadline set by the host government. This is, of course, a token pull-out. The detailed time-table for the total withdrawal of the 40,000 IPKF is to be worked out through negotiations in New Delhi which may get underway by the time this appears in print. But even this gesture of goodwill has gone a long way in defusing the crisis which had threatened to assume the form of a military showdown. India's refusal to withdraw by July 29 and Sri Lanka's warning that it would forcibly evict the IPKF or confine it to its barracks could have led to a serious confrontation between them. Now that they have agreed to a phased withdrawal, tempers on both sides can be expected to cool down. In fact, the two countries are once again talking of their 2,500-year-old friendship. A negotiated withdrawal should, in a way, be in Sri Lanka's interest. It should minimise the chances of intra-Tamil conflict in the North-eastern Province. Any worsening of relations between Colombo and New Delhi would have accentuated the hostility between the anti-Indian Tamil Tigers and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], the Tamil group which has cooperated with the Indians in implementing the 1987 accord. By committing itself to an agreed timeframe for the withdrawal of its troops, India will strengthen President Premadasa's position vis-a-vis the militant JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna—People's Liberation Front]. Given the climate of political opinion in Sri Lanka, India must not now prevaricate on the question of withdrawal. The New Delhi negotiations should be treated as a good occasion to draw up a timetable for a speedy withdrawal. This is important, especially if the Indian forces are not to outstay their welcome and cause unnecessary tension and misunderstanding. India must avoid creating an impression that as the biggest power in the region it wants to impose its will on its smaller neighbours. The induction of the IPKF into Sri Lanka was affected under a freely negotiated accord between two sovereign States. Likewise, the withdrawal must also be arranged on the basis of mutual agreement between them.

The defusing of the present tension will have a positive effect on the peace and stability of the region. The Indo-Sri Lankan dispute had cast its dark shadow on regional cooperation. SAARC's [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's] Foreign Ministers' conference which was to have been held in Islamabad in June had to be called off at the last minute on account of Sri Lanka's refusal to attend as a mark of protest against

India's negative stand on the question of troops withdrawal. Hopefully, the meeting will now be convened in the near future. It is important that all channels of communication between the South Asian neighbours are kept open. While this is essential to promote matters of multilateral interest, it will also enable bilateral issues to be discussed informally.

Quiet diplomacy can always help even if it does not in all cases produce instant results. For instance, in this case the Pakistan Foreign Minister's visit to Colombo and New Delhi to smooth out matters has proved remarkably helpful. The possibilities offered by this mode of diplomacy and behind-the-scenes contacts and exchanges at SAARC meetings should be utilised more effectively to create a better climate of trust and understanding in the region.

Bhutto Accused of Accepting Indian 'Hegemony'

BK3007125489 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 20 Jul 89 p 10

[Editorial: "Rajiv Gandhi's Visit—The Debate Goes On"]

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has denied the allegations that her government has accepted India's hegemony. To substantiate her assertion, the prime minister has forwarded a logic which can be divided into two parts. The first is her claim that her government—which is democratically elected and enjoys the support of the people—is so strong and stable that any question whatsoever of its bowing before any foreign government does not arise. The second part is a sort of counteraccusation in which the prime minister has alleged that predecessors of those now leveling such allegations against her government had themselves accepted India as a big brother, awarded medals to Morarji Desai [former Indian prime minister], and took pride in establishing close relationships with Indian film actors and their families.

It is not known what objective the government wishes to achieve by playing up the weaknesses of the previous governments. It is a historical fact that no Pakistani had supported and appreciated the way the former president [Ziaul Haq] had humbled himself before India through his cricket diplomacy. The former president had always been the target of criticism for his policy vis-a-vis India, and because of this popular pressure he could not settle any issue with that country.

In fact, now the Pakistani people are so conscious that whenever an issue of national interest arises, they make decisions rising above party politics. Therefore, if today they feel that the present government is bowing before India, they will rise above their political loyalties and stop supporting the government. And, hence, the prime minister's assertion that her democratically elected government is strong and stable because of popular support holds no water.

Even though the prime minister's party has representation in all four provinces, it was able to form a government in only two provinces. Even the Sind Province, where her party got an absolute majority, is in no way under the control of the government. There is a confrontation between the federal government and the opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] in the largest province of Punjab, which is draining energies of both the federal and the Punjab governments. Because of this, the prime minister and her government are becoming gradually weaker.

If, against this background, the prime minister is not really ready to accept India's hegemony, she will have to make herself stronger; and she can do this by paying heed to suggestions, even carried by foreign newspapers, that her foreign visits cannot contribute toward ensuring stability inside the country. In order to strengthen her position within the country, the prime minister will have to first resolve the problems of her "native" province—Sind—and to make the presence of her government felt there. So long as Bhutto's government is unable to control the Sind situation, the claim about her government's being strong does not hold up well. Likewise, the IDA and the PPP [People's Party of Pakistan] should reach a compromise by pursuing the policy of "live and let live," so as to put an end to the factor of unrest and weakness and to run the affairs of the country in accordance with the mandate given by the people.

Political quarters have given negative reactions to Rajiv Gandhi's Islamabad visit. A former prime minister says that Rajiv Gandhi's attitude at the joint news conference was not only aggressive and insulting but also not in keeping with the status of a distinguished guest. Rajiv Gandhi said boldly in front of the Pakistani prime minister that there cannot be a plebiscite in Kashmir and that Pakistan's nuclear program is under the control of the military. The former prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, has rightly advised the government to keep in view national honor and dignity while dealing with India in future. The government should accept this advice in the interest of the nation and the country, and stop raking up the wrongdoings of the past governments, because the people are concerned only with what the present government is doing.

Department Set Up To Monitor Police Excesses

BK0808035189 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] A department will be set in the Interior Ministry to keep vigil on police atrocities. This department is being set up because of the complaints received by the Interior Ministry every day from various parts of the country about police atrocities. In addition to this, there are also complaints that in spite of bringing complaints to the notice of the police on certain occasions, there is no action on them. This department will submit immediate reports on this to the DIG [Deputy Inspector General of Police], IG [Inspector General of Police] and the home secretary concerned. It will take immediate steps for reconciliation; and, if necessary, it will give legal advice to the affected persons. Besides, it will maintain a record of all such police officers against whom there are frequent complaints and will forward it to other departments.

Official Strongly Denies Disinformation Charge

BK0408034289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Aug 89

[Text] Pakistan has strongly refuted the Kabul regime's allegation that it is using its mass media for [disinformation on] the situation in Afghanistan. Addressing the concluding session of the 10th intergovernmental meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in Harare, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Javed Jabbar, said the Kabul regime's policies have forced millions of people to take refuge outside the country, especially in Pakistan. Pakistan has been fulfilling its responsibility in providing assistance to more than 3 million Afghan refugees for almost a decade. He said the United Nations has overwhelmingly supported Pakistan's policies on Afghanistan. Its sincerity is also reflected by the fact that Pakistan has signed the Geneva accords on Afghanistan and is determined to implement them. He said Pakistan is a target for the Kabul regime's major aggressive activities. Rockets and Scud missiles are being fired on innocent people and there have been numerous violations of Pakistani airspace and territory.

Opposition Leader Criticizes Government Policies

BK0608083389 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Jul 89 p 6

[Text] Karachi, July 25—Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the leader of opposition in the National Assembly (NA) said in Karachi Monday evening that Islami Jamhoori Ittehad [Islamic Democratic Alliance] (IJI) was the only democratic forum in the country which was fighting against a party which wants fascism in Pakistan.

Speaking at a reception hosted for him by the newly formed IJI lawyers forum at a local hotel he sharply criticised the federal government's action for dissolving the Baluchistan assembly shortly after coming into power and continuous efforts to destabilise the IJI government in Punjab and for imposing the Peoples Programme. "Under the Peoples Programme the country is heading towards a unitary form of government or one unit which we will strongly resist" he added.

He said that the [Pakistan] People's Party [PPP] had deviated from its commitment to the nation for giving provincial autonomy. Withdrawal of the concurrent list, [of subjects under the jurisditiction of both federal and provincial governments] would be a big step for giving autonomy. This should be followed by setting up a committee to amend the Constitution for giving more powers to the provinces for which we will extend support. This will not be done by the federal government as their intentions on the question of provincial autonomy were quite clear, he added.

On law and order situation in Sind, Mr Jatoi said it had deteriorated in all respects during the last eight months. The situation was even worse than it was during the martial law regime and Mr Junejo's government. The Sind government has totally failed in protecting honour, life and property of the people or providing them jobs which was basic responsibility of a government in any civilised country, he observed.

He strongly opposed inclusion of zakat and ushr [Islamic taxes] in the finance bill 1989 and said the object was to have personal gains. Zakat and ushr, he stressed, were not taxes in Islam.

The leader of opposition in the N.A. demanded immediate recognition of the interim Afghan government. The mujahidin will achieve success soon, he predicted.

On Siachen, he said every inch of that barren land was precious to Pakistan and "we shall fight to defend every inch of our homeland."

On the Kashmir issue he was of the view that it should be raised at international forums if not resolved under the Simla agreement....

Referring to Pakistan's nuclear programme, Mr Jatoi said as a sovereign state, we have every right to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Rules and procedures in this regard should be applied without any discrimination on Pakistan like any other country.

At the outset, he said that the nation gave a divided mandate in the 1988 elections. The manner in which power was transferred to the PPP which had 92 seats in the National Assembly in a house of 237 was illogical. According to the Constitution, he argued, election of speaker of National Assembly takes place first, followed by election of leader of the house. Circumstances were created for Benazir Bhutto to become Prime Minister, he added.

He contested the claim of those saying that democracy was in danger in Pakistan. "If the PPP is not in power does it mean that democracy is in danger" he asked. "We will accept Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister as long as she commands confidence of the National Assembly members. We believe in change of government through constitutional means only. We are against martial law" he added.

Jatoi accepts majority of PPP in Sind and it should also accept our majority in Punjab. He said the centre-province confrontation was causing great concern to people in and outside the country. He maintained that placement bureaus set up by PPP were meant to give jobs to its party workers.

He said "we will not allow Sind card to succeed. There should be no compromise on law and order." "We must create healthy traditions," he added.

He reiterated his offer of cooperation for restoring peace in Sind. "If Sind burns the whole country burns. Since the PPP came into power, the people feel insecure during day and night. People pray at home for safe return of their dear ones. We can not allow this situation to continue indefinitely", he said. He was prepared to go along with Sind leaders to all parts of the province to appeal for peace.

Earlier Mr Shamshad Lari, convenor IJI lawyers forum, Khawaja Adeel Ahmed, Nasim Hyder, and Mohammed Ali Sheikh addressed the gathering of a large number of advocates.

Sri Lanka

875 Indian Soldiers Depart for Home 6 Aug

BK0708114089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] India has pulled out 875 more of its soldiers from Sri Lanka. According to reports these soldiers from the Bharat Regiment, one of India's most reputed battalions, sailed out of the northern port town of Kankesanthurai late yesterday. The report further said the ship was due to reach the southern Indian port city of Madras today. No further details were available about the previously unannounced withdrawal.

700 More Depart 8 Aug

BK0808070089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 8 Aug 89

[Text] Another batch of 700 PKF [Peacekeeping Force] soldiers left the northern Sri Lankan port of Trincomalee for home this morning. This is the third contingent to leave for India since the 29th of last month. They were seen off by the PKF commander, Lieutenant General Kalkat, and senior military and civilian officers of the Sri Lankan Government.

No Cabinet Decision on Indian Pull-Out Proposal

BK0708152189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1356 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Cabinet Monday failed to make a decision on Indian proposals for a phased withdrawal of Indian troops from the island as fresh violence left at least 14 people dead.

Six of the victims were policemen, who died when a land mine reportedly planted by the rebel Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP) [People's Liberation Front] group blasted their jeep in southern Embilipittiya area late Sunday, officials said. The other fatalities included a police officer and his wife, a JVP activist and five civilians.

The Sri Lankan Cabinet held a special session Monday, but did not make a decision on the proposals brought from New Delhi Saturday by Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne on an Indian pullout, an official announcement said.

A government communique said the Cabinet would hold another special meeting Friday after Mr. Wijeratne spelt out the Indian and Sri Lankan views on the troop withdrawal to Parliament Tuesday.

The meeting came hours after New Delhi withdrew 875 para-military troops from Sri Lanka. Indian diplomats said 600 more soldiers would leave Tuesday.

The 875 soldiers, from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), left the northern port town of Kankesanthursai late Sunday for India's southern city of Madras, the Indian High Commission (Embassy) here said.

A high commission spokesman said the 600 soldiers would return home from Trincomalee, where their heavy battle equipment was already being loaded onto an Indian naval ship. Some 620 troops left Trincomalee for India July 29.

India has some 44,000 peace-keeping troops in Sri Lanka's Tamil-majority Northeastern Province under a 1987 bilateral peace accord which sought to end Tamil separatism.

A Sri Lankan team led by Mr. Wijeratne held talks for a week from July 29 with Indian leaders, including Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, to work out a time frame for withdrawing the Indian troops.

India has reportedly agreed to withdraw its soldiers in phases if Colombo devolves adequate autonomy to a provincial government in the Tamil northeast and stops "colonisation" of Tamil areas by the majority Sinhalese community. But neither side has spelt out its views publicly so far.

The Sri Lankan Government reportedly wants a quick Indian withdrawal to counter the challenge of the radical JVP, or People's Liberation Front, which has been blamed for hundreds of killings since the 1987 accord was signed.

The JVP violently opposes the Indian military deployment, wants the accord scrapped and has accused the government of "dilly dallying" on sending back the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF).

JVP gunmen killed a police officer and his wife at southern Tangalle Town and three people related to soldiers in Kalutara District, near here, in separate attacks Sunday, officials said.

Security forces shot dead a JVP activist and captured four others in north-central Polonnaruwa District while JVP gunmen killed a Tamil civilian in southern Monaragala for not supporting their cause, officials said. An unknown gang also killed a woman in Kalutara District, but officials did not say when the three killings took place.

An official statement said security forces had recovered a large quantity of ammunition, explosives, 15,000 JVP posters, police and Army uniforms, and taken into custody nearly 275 JVP suspects for screening.

Meanwhile, a purported call by the JVP for a two-day general strike and "curfew" to protest the IPKF's continued deployment failed to come off, with Colombo and other districts reporting normal life.

Residents said transport and trade was affected only briefly in southern Matara District, a known JVP stronghold.

Previous JVP strikes and "curfews" have crippled almost the whole of Sri Lanka barring the north-east, where Indian troops are deployed and where the JVP has a negligible following.

In other developments, the government said it was cutting the night curfew, which would begin two hours later on Monday at 10 p.m. and end at 4:00 a.m. the next day.

The government Monday also barred employees of institutions now under military control from resigning—a move which officials said was aimed at preventing a shut down of the state-controlled media.

Sri Lankan troops have been occupying the buildings of the Sri Lankan Broadcasting Corp. (SLBC), state-run newspapers and the country's two television networks since last month in a bid to keep them going.

Journalists working for the SLBC and a state-run newspaper chain have complained they were forcibly brought to work by soldiers on days when the JVP organised strikes or "curfews".

Tamil Group Accuses India of Killing 70 People

BK0708144389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1422 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP)—A Tamil political party on Monday accused Indian troops of killing more than 70 "innocent civilians" in north Sri Lanka during fighting against Tamil guerrillas.

The Eelvar Democratic Front (EDF) asked the island's political parties to set up a commission of enquiry and to visit the places where it alleged Indian troops were violating human rights.

A brief statement issued by the EDF, which with 13 MP's is the single largest Tamil group in Parliament, urged leaders of political parties and MP's to take "immediate action" to halt the Indian military operations.

Indian diplomats declined to comment on the statement.

The EDF said the Indian offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) began August 2 and was continuing in the northern coastal areas of Velvettiturai, Thiruvil, Uraikkadu and Vadamarachchi.

Velvettiturai is the birthplace of LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran, whose group has repudiated an Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord of 1987 which sought to end Tamil separatism and has refused to lay down weapons.

The statement said more than 70 "innocent Tamils" had been killed and more than 300 houses damaged in the Indian military operations. "Already, 10 refugee camps have been set up" to accommodate those fleeing the fighting, it said.

Indian diplomats have said fighting had been raging since last week in the island's north between Indian troops and the LTTE.

The LTTE claimed Friday that its fighters had killed 14 Indian soldiers in the area and that the Indians had massacred 25 civilians in retaliation. India normally does not react to LTTE allegations.

The EDF is the political wing of the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), one of the five Tamil militant groups which accepted the 1987 accord. The EROS is a known ally of the LTTE.

Delhi TV Notes Continued Violence

BK0708163489 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] In the continued violence in Sri Lanka at least seven people have been killed. Four of them were policemen who were killed when their patrol vehicle was blown up in an explosion in the Southern Province. This incident took place yesterday. Agency reports put the death toll at six. Security forces have rounded up over 300 suspected subversives for questioning in countrywide operations.

It has now been disclosed that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suffered a heavy casualty of 50 killed and 26 wounded when their attack at Adampan near Mannar was repulsed by the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] on Monday last [31 July]. An External

Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that the LTTE has lost 87 men since the 29th of last month, besides 16 of them which have surrendered to the IPKF.

750 Suspects Questioned for Subversive Activities

BK0708113889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] A government communique said in an islandwide search operation the security forces took in for questioning over 750 suspects. Fifty-five of them are being questioned under strict security for alleged subversive activities.

A security spokesman said once the suspects are interrogated and no evidence is found against them, they will all be released.

In Colombo improvised explosive devices were placed in over 20 places. In most places the public had informed the security forces and the explosives were defused without causing injury or damage to property.

The security forces also took in for questioning 256 persons in the Galaha police area. At Kuliyapitiya, over 300 persons were taken in for questioning.

SLBC Denies Jamming Clandestine Operations

BK0708103489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1015 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP)—The state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) denied Monday it was responsible for jamming a clandestine radio operated by a radical rebel group.

"The allegation is...totally without foundation," the radio quoted a statement by its additional director general, Hudson Samarasinghe, as saying.

The statement said the SLBC was "in no way responsible for the jamming of any external or internal radio broadcasts.... No SLBC equipment or personnel are employed in jamming operations."

Mr. Samarasinghe did not mention any radio station by name, but his statement followed allegations by the rebel Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) that its radio was being jammed by the SLBC.

The JVP, a radical group which seeks to overthrow the government, runs a reportedly mobile clandestine radio which is known to broadcast at least four days a week in Sinhala, the language of the majority Sinhalese community.

The JVP radio often comes out with strike calls and taped speeches by its leftwing founder-leader, Rohana Wijeweera.

Listeners here have said JVP broadcasts, coming on short wave frequency, are at times clear, but that it was jammed for some time late last month.

Suspected JVP gunmen killed SLBC chief Thevis Guruge and a well-known SLBC programmer, Premakeerthi de Alwis, last month.

Congress Condemns ENDLF Killing of Muslims

BK0708145389 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress [SLMC], which occupies 13 out of the 18 opposition seats in the Northeastern provincial council, staged a token boycott of today's proceedings of the Northeastern provincial council as a mark of protest at the ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] killing of one of its provincial councillors, M.R. (Lokubander) in a dastardly fashion.

The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress says that the actions of the ENDLF also cost the life of a Muslim student and injured 10 other Muslims. [words indistinct] 15 houses causing an estimated damage of 500,000 rupees.

The SLMC outrightly condemned all forms of violence and acts of terrorism unleashed on the Muslims of the eastern province by the armed terrorist group, who claimed to have entered the democratic process. The Muslim Congress says that the barbaric behavior of the ENDLF is distressing in view of the fact that the ENDLF is a constituent party of the Northeastern provincial administration. The SLMC feels the parties in the Northeastern provincial council should take collective responsibility for the behavior of any of its constituent members.

'Few Takers' to Jayewardene's Unity Call

BK0708121689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1050 GMT 7 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP)—There were few takers Monday for former President Junius Jayewardene's appeal for a government of national unity in Sri Lanka to end the country's political turmoil.

Three political parties, including the ruling United National Party (UNP), turned down the idea, while there was no reaction from the main opposition, the centrist Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP). It was, however, welcomed by the minor Liberal Party.

Mr. Jayewardene, who ruled Sri Lanka from 1977 to 1988, was quoted in newspapers Sunday as saying that the island nation needed a "national government," or a government of national unity.

This, he said, was "the best way to solve the present crisis in Sri Lanka."

"A mere formation of a national government is not enough to solve the present crisis," Y.P. de Silva of the left-wing Sri Lanka Mahajana (People's) Party said. "What is needed is a national coherent policy."

Hector Abeywardene of Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP), the island's oldest left-wing group, said his party would not even consider Mr. Jayewardene's idea even though "the crisis (facing the country) is very serious. "A national government will not meet the demands of today," he added.

Ranjan Wijeratne, foreign minister and general secretary of the UNP, dismissed the idea. He was reported as telling THE SUN newspaper: "Anybody can make any statement. I don't want to react to it." The UNP has been in power in Sri Lanka since 1977.

There was no immediate reaction from the SLFP, the country's strongest opposition party, or the pro-Moscow Sri Lanka Communist Party, whose spokesman said a decision could be taken only by its leadership.

"We might talk about this tomorrow (Tuesday) at our meeting," an SLFP spokesman said. "But we have not discussed this so far."

But Liberal Party leader Chanaka Amaratunga said a government of national unity would carry "credibility and provide greater stability" to the political system.

According to newspapers, Mr. Jayewardene, 83, refused to say who should be the leader of the proposed "national government" though he said he would not return to active politics.

Several thousand people have died and many more been injured across Sri Lanka since 1983 in ethnic conflict and political violence. The casualties include more than 1,000 Indian soldiers.

Paper Criticizes India for Devolution Position

BK0508131089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Aug 89

[Text] The editorial of the ISLAND newspaper yesterday pointed out that the devolution of power is a matter which should be discussed between the Sri Lankan Government and the provincial councils. It adds that India has no role to play in this matter. The editorial comments that India is purposely trying to perpetuate its presence in Sri Lanka and it is a matter of regret that the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] is ready to play the role of New Delhi's handmaiden.

It further states that New Delhi is using the EPRLF as its handmaiden and is trying to pressurize the government of Sri Lanka to grant more powers to the Northeast Provincial Council. This attempt by India, which fails to see the devolution of power as a countrywide exercise is by itself bound to cause misgivings in the minds of the majority of the people. It is time that Sri Lanka made it clear to India that devolution of power is not an issue confined to the northeast. It is a national issue, which can only be settled by talks between the Sri Lankan Government and the provincial councils. The Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim people have the capacity and the flexibility of mind to settle this issue amongst themselves. The editorial further points out the biggest deterrent—to launching such an attempt—is the presence of the Indian troops.

The chief minister of the Northeast Provincial Council, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, had been flown to New Delhi in an Indian Air Force plane to join the Indo-Lankan talks. Commenting on this recent development, the editorial says that there is no role to be played by the Northeast Provincial Council in the talks between two sovereign countries. It adds that Mr Perumal seems to be the latest red herring which India had produced.